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SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING COMMITTEE.

This Committee has at length concluded its investigations, but not yet presented its report. Like other committees of a similar kind, it has failed in obtaining the information it most particularly wanted, and will be found, in its results, to be one-sided, exaggerated, and unfair. Three points have been especially aimed at by those who have had the management of the planters' case,—viz. :—to show the absolute necessity which exists for a large fiscal protection to West India interests, in the shape of differential duties on foreign sugars, whether free or slave-grown; the unlimited importation of foreign labourers, particularly Africans, into the colonies, at the public expense; and the application of a severe code of laws, which shall compel the emancipated slaves to work continuously upon the plantations, for a very low rate of wages.

The witnesses examined were, with few exceptions, either West India proprietors, merchants, or agents representing them in the colonies. These gentlemen had evidently been well drilled; they told the same tale, and proposed the same remedies. It is but fair, however, to distinguish from the rest the evidence given by J. Tollemache, Esq., M.P., whose properties lie in Antigua; H. Barkly, Esq., who has estates in British Guiana; and G. Carrington, Esq., whose plantations are in Barbadoes. Their testimony was characterized by an independence and intelligence which did them honour. We differ in several important particulars from each of these witnesses; yet we cannot withhold from them the expression of our respect for the manner in which they placed their evidence before the Committee.

Those who expect to find any satisfactory solution of the problem whether the cost of free or slave-labour is the greatest in the evidence laid before the Committee, will be disappointed. Much was said upon the subject, and many particular cases referred to; but the true elements upon which the calculation should be based, were either ill understood, overlooked, or purposely concealed by the witnesses. The consequence is, that no just estimate can be formed of the comparative cost of the two systems, from the information laid before this Committee. We shall, however, give a full view of the evidence on this point, as set forth in the minutes now before us.

COMPARATIVE COST OF FREE AND SLAVE-LABOUR. JAMAICA.

LORD HOWARD DE WALDEN laid before the Committee the following particulars relating to the average cost of one cwt. of sugar on sixteen estates in the county of Cornwall, Jamaica,—viz. :—

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|-----|
| 15 estates in 1845, average per cwt. | 0 | 19 | 10½ |
| 16 do. 1846, do. | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| 14 do. 1847, do. | 0 | 18 | 9½ |

This would give a general average, for the three years, on these estates, of £1. 0s. 1½d.

With respect to a particular estate of his own, Montpelier, he remarked, "in 1846, the expense was £1. 0s. 10d. per cwt.; and in the last year, 1847, it was only 11s. 6½d."

In the details given by his lordship, of the sixteen estates in the county of Cornwall, we have the remarkable fact stated, that whilst on some estates the cost of raising one cwt. of sugar did not exceed 6s. 6½d., 8s., 11s. 6½d., and 11s. 10d., on others it was as high as 33s. 11d., 36s. 9d., 37s., and 40s. 4d. per cwt.—*Par. Pap. No. 167, 1848, Third Report, pp. 7, 8.*

The causes of the enormous variations in the cost of raising

produce in the same district in Jamaica were not explained by Lord Howard de Walden. It is clear, however, that, supposing them to be of a permanent character, the latter class of estates cannot compete with the former, and ought to be abandoned.

T. PRICE, Esq., in reference to the cost of production, said, "I calculated that the cost of producing a hogshead of sugar (16 cwt.), and half a puncheon of rum, under favourable circumstances, ought to be £25." He added, "If the price of labour be materially reduced, and the newly-erected machinery turn out well, it is possible the cost may be ultimately reduced as low as £20 per hogshead; but in making this calculation it is not fair to rely upon the machinery turning out well, when it frequently turns out very ill; the value, therefore, of the hogshead I have stated to be £16, and the half puncheon of rum is £7, which makes a total of £23."—*Ibid. p. 53.*

A. COLVILLE, Esq. produced a summary of the expenses incurred in making sugar on three of his estates in Jamaica, from which it appears that, after deducting the amount received for the rum, the cost was 17s. per cwt.—*Ibid. p. 113.*

MR. B. B. GREENE stated the cost of production on four estates in Jamaica, after deducting the proceeds of rum, to be in 1843, 28s. per cwt.; 1844, 19s. 3d.; 1845, 17s. 9d.; and 1846, 29s. 3d. per cwt.; showing an average of 22s. 9d. per cwt. for the four estates, during a period of four years.—*Ibid. p. 143.*

MR. T. DICKSON stated that with a sufficient quantity of labour, sugar might be produced on the estate which he had managed at £12 per ton, free on board, and that this sum included all charges and interest on capital invested in the estate.—*Ibid. p. 170.*

The foregoing witnesses produced no evidence as to the cost of producing sugar during the time of slavery.

ALEX. GEDDES, Esq., in reply to questions proposed to him, said, "Though Jamaica is but a comparatively small country, there is no country in the world of the same extent which varies so much in its capabilities, or qualities of its soil. The cost of production in slavery as well as at present, would, therefore, vary considerably; but it was not under 4s. a cwt., nor did it exceed 12s. to 14s., deducting the rum, and making no allowance for interest upon capital." . . . "Up to 1841, from 1838, the cost of production in the country, deducting the rum, and making no allowance for interest on capital, was 26s. per cwt." . . . "The cost has been reduced to about 23s. per cwt."—*Par. Pap. No. 184, 1848, Fourth Report, pp. 1, 2.*

Mr. Geddes gives no data to prove the accuracy of his statements, nor quotes any authority in their support.

P. BORTHWICK, Esq., lately returned from a month's tour in Jamaica, said :—

"The average cost of producing a cwt. of sugar in the five years beginning with 1826, and ending with 1830, was 5s. 6½d. Upon the same estate, from the year 1835 to 1838, the average cost was 4s.; and upon another estate the average cost was 5s. 1d. The average cost upon the same estates now is 18s., but they are estates of a very favourable description, because the average cost of growing a cwt. of sugar in Jamaica, according to the showing of Mr. Barclay's committee, is 27s. At the bottom of page 2, you will see it is £1. 2s. 7½d. per cwt., that is without taking into account interest on capital expended, equal to 4s. 6d. per cwt.; and you will see in page 4, the last paragraph but one of the Report, 'It has been shown, that even with protection, many of the properties have been ruined by the emancipation measure, and that all have been most seriously injured; that sugar cannot be produced in Jamaica under 27s. per cwt., to give common interest upon capital, while in Cuba, the Committee are well informed, 12s. is a remunerative price.' So that, according to the statement of Mr. Barclay's Committee, the cost, including

interest upon capital is 27s., excluding interest on capital, the cost is £1. 2s. 7½d."—*Par. Pap. No. 206, 1848, Fifth Report, p. 163.*

The report quoted by Mr. Borthwick is that of the Jamaica House of Assembly, presided over by Mr. Barclay, as chairman. We have not had an opportunity of examining it yet, and, therefore, can form no opinion upon its value. In reference to the cost of production during the period of slavery, as Mr. Borthwick does not give the elements of which it is composed, it cannot be verified.

P. MILES, Esq., M.P. This gentleman laid before the Committee a statement on the cost of producing sugar on seven estates in Jamaica, as follows:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|--------------|
| 1831 to 1834, after deducting proceeds of rum, &c. | 14 | 11½ per cwt. |
| 1835 „ 1838, do. do. | 17 | 10½ „ |
| 1839 „ 1842, do. do. | 43 | 11 „ |
| 1843 „ 1846, do. do. | 28 | 5 „ |

Mr. Miles stated, "that those estates are below the average, so much so, that he thought they would go out of cultivation."

In addition to the above statement, Mr. Miles gave particulars of the cost of raising sugar on three estates—viz.:—Hyde, in the parish of Trelawney, 1843 to 1846, £1. 3s. 10½d. per cwt., deducting the value of the rum. In connexion with this estate, it appears that in 1846, £800. 4s. was expended in the purchase of stock. The average annual expenditure, as regards this item for the five years previous,—viz.: 1841 to 1845, being £350. 18s.; Glasgow, St. James's, £1. 17s. 8½d. per cwt. The crops on this estate fell off nearly one-half in 1844 and 1846, in consequence of bad seasons; Content, Hanover, £1. 11s. 11½d. per cwt. On this latter statement no note is appended, setting forth any special circumstances to account for the high rate of production.—*Ibid. pp. 230 to 235.*

ST. KITTS.

MR. B. B. GREENE laid before the Committee a statement of the cost of producing sugar on the *Nicola Town* estate, in St. Kitts, from which we gather that the average cost of raising sugar on that plantation, during the six years ending with 1834, was £4 18s. per ton; during the four years ending with 1838, £6. 11s. per ton; during the eight years ending with 1838, £19 5s. per ton.—*Par. Pap. No. 167, 1848, Third Report, p. 137.*

In another tabular statement, he gives the cost of production of ten estates in St. Kitts, during the years 1843, 4, 5, and 6, as follows:—1843, cost of producing one cwt. of sugar, after deducting rum and molasses, 24s. 9d.; 1844, 22s. 10d.; 1845, 21s.; and 1846, 18s. 7d. per cwt.—*Ibid. p. 142.*

GRENADA.

J. A. HANKEY, Esq., gave the cost of producing sugar on six estates in Grenada, from 1831 to 1847, inclusive, as follows:—1831, 11.64s.; 1832, 8.33s.; 1833, 8.99s.; 1834, 8.94s.; 1835, 11.07s.; 1836, 11.81s.; 1837, 8.99s.; 1838, 13.92s.; 1839, 18.17s.; 1840, 31.04s.; 1841, 35.33s.; 1842, 35.71s.; 1843, 27.20s.; 1844, 18.46s.; 1845, 26.65s.; 1846, 24.78s.; and 1847, 17.12s. per cwt.

It appears from the evidence of Mr. Hankey, that he had had recourse to immigration to increase the cultivation of his estates, but that it had proved "a very unsuccessful experiment, and determined him to have no more to do personally with any scheme of immigration." Of course the expenditure connected with immigration must have increased the cost of producing sugar. It further appears, that the amount of miscellaneous expenses during the years 1838, 9, 40, 41, and 1845, were very heavy. This additional outlay of course tended still further to heighten the cost of production.—*Ibid. pp. 180, 185.*

ANTIGUA.

JOHN TOLLEMACHE, Esq., M.P., in reply to the question, "Will you state what the net average profit of your estates has been?" said:—

"Yes; the average net profit for those ten years was £3,973, and the cost of production, 19s. 7d. per cwt. I should inform the Committee that I think this, upon the whole, is a fair average. Some gentlemen consider I have gone back too far, as those ten years include years in which sugar sold for a very high price, and therefore lessened very much the cost of production; but on the other hand, the statement also includes the expenses occasioned by the earthquake; therefore, putting these two things together, I have reason to believe, and it is the opinion of my merchants, who are very experienced men, that this is a fair average to take."—*Ibid. p. 241.*

This gentleman visited his estates about a year ago, and found, notwithstanding the assurance of his merchants, that they were economically managed, that he was able to effect reductions without difficulty, in the management, of from £900 to £1,000 a-year; that he found his stock in a most miserable condition, for instance:—

"At the estate called Glanvills, and on two of the other estates, I found the mules half starved, and yet a very considerable sum of money appeared for the purchase of corn in the plantation accounts, but that corn must have gone as allowances to the managers; the managers considered it was one of their perquisites. I do not blame them for taking it, because no doubt they were hired upon the understanding that they should have corn. To give the Committee some idea of the mismanagement of my stock, I may state that, though from the year 1838 to 1845 I expended in the purchase of stock upwards of £5,000 sterling, and had besides seventy breeding cows, the estates in the latter year were in a worse condition as regards stock than they were in the former."—*Ibid. p. 249.*

By encouraging labour, and carrying into effect judicious regulations for the general management of his estates, Mr. Tollemache is of opinion that he will be able to raise sugar at 15s. per cwt.—*Ibid. p. 257.*

MR. FRANCIS SHAND stated the cost of production on Folly-hill and Golden-grove to have been, from 1831 to 1834 inclusive, less molasses and rum, 7s. 11d. per cwt. In the year 1834-35, 5s. 10d. per cwt.; 1835-36, 13s. 7d. per cwt.; 1837-38, 19s. 10d.; and in 1846-47, 28s. 11d. per cwt. In reply to the question, "Have you any better estates?" Mr. Shand said:—

"Yes. I will now go to the one I should have mentioned first, Fitchess Creek; the whole average cost upon that estate, for four years before emancipation, was £1,421 18s. 8d., and the cost per cwt. was 7s. 8d. We went on very well for several years; in 1834-35 the whole production was 2,818 cwt., and the cost was 7s. 7d.; in 1835-36 they made 3,608 cwt., and the cost was 7s. 5d.; in 1845-46 they made 2,831 cwt., and the cost was 20s. 2d.; in 1846-47 the product was 4,555 cwt., the cost was 15s. 3d. I have an estate that shows even a better result than that, Cedar Valley estate; I only came into possession of that the year before emancipation; in that year I made 2,365 cwt. of sugar, at a cost of 3s. 4d. per cwt. Last year I made very nearly the same quantity of sugar, 2,318 cwt., and the cost was 14s. 7d."—*Ibid. p. 263.*

In a subsequent part of his examination, Mr. Shand handed in the following tabular statement, which we add to his previous evidence:—

TOTAL COST FOR THREE YEARS PRIOR TO EMANCIPATION.

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1832 | 11s. 4d. per cwt. |
| 1833 | 8s. 1d. „ |
| 1834 | 5s. 2d. „ |

TOTAL COST FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR.

| | Wages, per cwt. | | | Total Cost, per cwt. | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----|----|----------------------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| 1835..... | 0 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 8 | 7 |
| 1836..... | 0 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 16 | 2 |
| 1837..... | 0 | 10 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 1 |
| 1838..... | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 8 |
| 1839..... | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 11 |
| 1840..... | 0 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 1 |
| 1841..... | 0 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 6 |
| 1842..... | 0 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 15 | 9 |
| 1843..... | 0 | 8 | 11 | 0 | 15 | 10 |
| 1844..... | 0 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 1845..... | 0 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 19 | 7 |
| 1846..... | 1 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 15 | 6 |
| 1847..... | 0 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 17 | 11 |

Ibid. p. 277.

Mr. Shand added that the average cost upon one set of estates in the years 1846-47, was 15s. 6d. per cwt.; upon one estate it only cost 9s. per cwt.; but that he thought 18s. per cwt. would be a fair average of the cost of production.—*Ibid. p. 277.*

DEMERARA.

T. NAGHTEN, Esq. gave in a statement, from which it appears that the average annual cost of producing sugar on three estates, in Demerara, during the four years ending in 1838, was 6s. per cwt.; during the four years ending 1838, 8s. 6d. per cwt.; and during seven years ending with 1846, was 29s. 5d. per cwt. The estates specified are plantations, Golden Fleece, Canefields, and Columbia. It is remarkable that Mr. Naghten did not give the cost of cultivation from 1828 to 1834.

Mr. G. H. LOXDALE stated, that upon an estate which came

into the hands of the proprietor in 1835, the cost of production had been as follows:—1836, 12s. 6d.; 1837, 6s.; 1838, 19s. 2d.; 1839, 34s. 7d.; 1840, 21s. 7d.; 1841, 27s.; and 1844, 25s. 5d. per cwt., after the rum had been deducted.

H. BARKLY, Esq., M. P. The following statement of the cost of production was laid before the Committee by Mr. Barkly, viz. :—

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Average crop, three years' slavery | { 1831 1832 1833 1834 } | 6s. 8d. per cwt. |
| Year of transition | 1834 | — |
| Average crop, three years' apprenticeship { | { 1835 1836 1837 1838 } | 6s. 1d. per cwt. |
| Year of transition | 1848 | — |
| Average crop, three years' freedom | { 1839 1840 1841 } | 40s. 3d. per cwt. |
| Average cost, three years after immigration | { 1842 1843 1844 } | 30s. 7d. per cwt. |
| Average cost last three years, including year of drought, 1846 | { 1845 1846 1847 } | 25s. 10d. per cwt. |

In giving in this statement, Mr. Barkly said, "I ought in fairness to state that the year 1846 was a year of severe drought in British Guiana, and that the crop shipped from the colony was rather less than half the amount."—*Par. Pap. No. 206, 1848, Fifth Report, pp. 1, 2.*

DR. W. RANKEN said, "I believe the evidence before the Committee will show the expense of cultivation during slavery was little more than 6s. a cwt., after deducting the value of rum, while it is now more than 20s. My own experience goes to prove that the expense was about 6s. 5d. per cwt. during the time of slavery, and that it is now 23s."—*Ibid. p. 137.*

BARBADOES.

MR. H. DUMMETT. In reply to the questions put to him, Mr. Dummett said, in Barbadoes the planters could place on the beach at Barbadoes, for shipment, one ton of sugar for £17, without allowing anything for the rum and molasses appertaining thereto. "To every two hogsheads of sugar," he said, "we calculated upon one puncheon of molasses, or one puncheon of rum."—*Par. Pap. No. 167, 1848, Third Report, p. 212.*

G. CARRINGTON, Esq. On the cost of production, this gentleman said, "Admitting the amount of molasses and rum were as much as it was formerly, which is not the case, I make a liberal calculation when I say that £15 per hhd. would give a living to a West India proprietor, as a moderate remuneration, calculated upon his capital invested in his property." In answer to the question, "Where is the £15 to be received?" Mr. Carrington replied, "In England. That is at the present charges of freight and shipping, including, which many may not think necessary, insurance and legitimate precautions, which I think a man ought to take."—*Par. Pap. No. 206, 1848, Fifth Report, pp. 60, 61.*

It should be observed that Mr. Carrington has acted ever since the period of emancipation upon enlarged and generous views of duty towards his labourers. He has, in every respect, treated his people as "free labourers." We feel it to be due to this gentleman to make this statement. If others had acted upon the same enlightened principles, the West Indies would present a very different aspect to what they do now.

J. R. BEST, Esq., President of the Council in Barbadoes, confirmed the statements of Mr. Carrington, that £15 per hhd. in England would enable the estates to keep in cultivation; but added, "it cannot be said the island is doing at all well, unless the planters get £17 10s.; and I should say they were doing well if they got £20. I consider that would continue the cultivation, and only continue the cultivation, of the estates."—*Ibid. p. 62.*

TRINIDAD.

C. MARRYATT, Esq., said, with respect to the cost of production, "It varies very much; in 1845, it was 47s. a cwt.; in 1846, it was 31s.; and in 1847, 20s."—*Par. Pap. No. 184, 1848, Fourth Report, p. 141.*

P. MILES, Esq., M. P., gave a statement of the average cost of raising sugar in five Trinidad estates, as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|
| No. 1. 1845—1847..... | 22 10 | per cwt. |
| 2. 1845—1847..... | 41 0½ | " |
| 3. 1845—1847..... | 22 4½ | " |
| 4. 1845—1847..... | 31 2 | " |
| 5. 1845—1847..... | 22 7½ | " |

With respect to estate No. 2, Mr. Miles said it was "an unfortunate property; it was very nearly abandoned at one time, and also the managers were changed several times upon it, and, therefore," he added, "I do not think it can be fairly taken as an average."

In a subsequent part of his evidence, he gives the cost upon three estates as follows:—Pln. Upper Caroni, 24s. 0½d. per cwt.; Felicite, 27s. 9d. per cwt.; and Golden Grove, 28s. 8½d. per cwt."—*Par. Pap. No. 206, 1848, Fifth Report, pp. 237-9.*

ST. VINCENT.

H. WOLLEY, Esq., was allowed to lay before the Committee, an extract of a letter from Mr. James Porter, in charge of estates in St. Vincent, from which we make the following extract:—

"In my last letter, I stated the average cost of producing sugar for the last three years, on sixteen estates in this island, situated in different localities, after deducting the present value, (of rum and molasses in the British market,) to be 19s. 4d. sterling per cwt. Since then, I have, through the kindness of several proprietors and other gentlemen, connected with the management of estates, obtained the average cost of production on twelve other estates, for the same period, making in all twenty-eight, rather more than one-third of the whole estates in the island, and comprising some of the most extensive and productive properties, which, when added to the former, brings the average cost to 19s. 7d. sterling per cwt. I have a statement," said Mr. Wolley, "to verify that, from the estate to which I have referred, Fairhall."

In addition to the foregoing particulars, Mr. Wolley stated, that, taking a period of five years during the time of slavery, the cost of producing 1 cwt. of sugar, was 5s. 6½d.; and that during the four years of the apprenticeship, it amounted to 6s. per cwt.—*Ibid. pp. 68, 74.*

We have thus run through the evidence of individuals, connected with the several colonies mentioned, who gave evidence on the comparative cost of free and slave-labour; we now add, to to complete it, the statements of Messrs. Moody and Higgins. The former of these gentlemen is an engineer, and is acquainted with the sugar-making districts in Barbadoes, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, and Demerara. He says:—

"The average expense of producing sugar in the West India colonies ranges from 15s. to 22s. a cwt.; we may take about 19s. as the average; the majority are higher than that; it is only Barbadoes that can produce sugar at a lower price, but I should say, that the average cost of producing sugar in the British West Indies, is about 19s.; but the average cost in the foreign West Indies is about 8s. the cwt."

In reference to Demerara, he said, "I undertake to tell the Committee that in Demerara, after deducting the rum and offal, it costs 22s. 6d. on a large estate, over a period of six years, exclusive of interest on capital; that was cost of supplies, and wages and salaries."

Subsequently MR. MOODY said, "I believe, taking the average of the estates of the British West Indies, 25s. or 26s. a cwt., would be equivalent to the cost of the production of sugar, and bringing it here."—*Par. Pap. No. 167, 1848, Third Report pp. 99, 100.*

MR. HIGGINS is a proprietor in Demerara and Grenada. He laid before the Committee the following returns, showing the cost of producing sugar in the colonies named, during the last three years of slavery, three years of apprenticeship, and the first three years of free labour.

| COLONIES. | Average of Estates. | Slaves. | Apprentices. | Freedom. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| Jamaica | 22 | 10 5½ | 9 2½ | 29 2 |
| Grenada | 13 | 9 2½ | 9 0 | 24 9 |
| St. Vincent .. | 3 | 7 3½ | 7 1 | 21 6 |
| Guiana | 9 | 6 6½ | 8 2 | 24 11 |
| Tobago | 2 | 8 5½ | 11 2 | 27 10 |
| Trinidad | 2 | 9 5 | 8 3 | 32 6½ |

The average cost is exclusive of interest on land and plant, and is inclusive of rum and molasses.

Mr. Higgins gave no evidence of the cost of production during the years 1842, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7; but he said, he "had no reason to believe that there has been any material diminution in the cost of production, and certainly none in the cost of labour since that time."—*Par. Pap. No. 184, 1848, Fourth Report pp. 73, 74.*

We have now given the whole of the evidence on the comparative cost of sugar production during the time of slavery and freedom; and we would confidently ask any intelligent person what he can

make of it? Supposing the gentlemen who gave these statistics were perfectly accurate in their statements; that they neither concealed facts that should be known, nor exaggerated those that they furnished to the Committee; it is evident that sugar cultivation cannot, and ought not to go on on a multitude of estates. But we strongly suspect a very different case can be made out, than what appears on the face of the evidence. Take for instance the cost of raising sugar during the period of slavery. The witnesses tell us it was produced at sums varying in amount between 3s. and 11s. 4d. per cwt. But then they allowed nothing for interest on capital invested in slaves; nothing for loss of life connected with the atrocious system under which they were driven to death; nothing for the non-effective portion of their gangs and for other contingencies. They made statements on this head, of course flatly contradictory of the evidence of their own body in former times, as we shall presently show; and, when they were reminded of this, they either evaded the point, or boldly challenged its accuracy. Mr. Higgins thus flung down the gauntlet. Referring to the tabular statement which he laid before the Committee he said:—

"These statements I may state, have been very carefully prepared, and there is no reason to suppose that there has been any very material diminution in the cost of production, and certainly none in the cost of labour since that time. If such be the case, it is very clear that either those gentlemen who have stated that labour is now cheaper than it was during slavery, must have stated what is not true, or this must be the most complicated falsehood that was ever invented; and I think that Government, who can have no difficulty in determining, through their Governor, what is really the case, should have done so before our complaints were answered by such statements as these, which must certainly destroy all confidence in the minds of the unfortunate planters when they see these accounts sent out to them; and find not only that what they say is not believed, but that these statements, which give a ridiculously false impression of the actual state of things, are thus put forward."

These remarks were principally directed against the information furnished by a Dr. Jelly and a Mr. Scotland, colonists, who, in certain pamphlets which they had published, had stated that the cost of cultivation was now less than during the time of slavery. Mr. Scotland estimating the cost of a negro slave per annum in Jamaica at £15 10s., whilst that of the free man working 300 days in the year did not amount to more than £15, thus leaving a balance of sixteen shillings in favour of free-labour. But Mr. Higgins' remarks have a wider range, for they not only are in direct opposition to those of Messrs. Jelly and Scotland, but of the recorded evidence of the body of planters to which he belongs.

It will be observed by reference to Mr. Higgins' table, that the cost of producing sugar, during the time of slavery, varied in different colonies, from 7s. 3½d. to 10s. 5½d. per cwt. St. Vincent giving the lowest, and Jamaica the highest average. Now on turning to the report of the committee appointed by the House of Commons in 1806—7, on the commercial state of the West India colonies, we find the following statement, to which we beg particular attention:—

"Calculations have been laid before your committee, from the accounts of estates, both in Jamaica and other islands, by which it appears, that the British supplies and island expenses amount to 20s. 10d. in the former, and to 19s. 6d. in the latter, on the cwt. of sugar, after accounting and giving credit for the amount received for the sale of them. As these calculations are formed upon an average of years, and upon estates of the ordinary scale, and in no respects unusually circumstanced, it appears to your committee, that these sums per cwt. of sugar, may be taken as the average expense of cultivation, independent of interest upon the capital; and your committee are further confirmed in this opinion by finding a similar calculation in the report made by the Sugar Distilling Committee in the last parliament."—*Par. Pap.* 65, 1807, p. 3.

This statement, founded upon the evidence of the most eminent West Indians of that period, when they could replenish their gangs by fresh importations of slaves from Africa, was never contradicted. On the contrary, from that time up to the year 1832, when another committee of the House of Commons reported on the commercial state of the West India colonies, an unbroken chain of evidence can be produced to show that in consequence of the excessive cost of cultivation, as compared with the price of produce in the British market, even when the West India body enjoyed the entire monopoly of these markets, and were allowed a bounty on the sugar they exported to the continent, they declared themselves in a state of ruin, and facts proved them to be so. From that report we make the following extract:—

"Your committee have received abundant proof of this distress, which

is said to have existed, in a considerable degree, for ten or twelve years past, and to have been greatly aggravated within the last three or four. The immediate cause of distress, is the inadequacy of return; it is stated that the produce of the soil, in a majority of estates, does not ordinarily obtain, in any market foreign or domestic, a price which replaces to the producer the cost of production; that in many instances there is a serious deficiency, and that in very few there is any return of interest upon the capital employed." The committee then state "The average cost of production of a hundred weight of sugar, in the British West Indies, is without interest or capital 15s. 8d." the particulars of which are given in *Par. Pap.* No. 120—1831, p. 57.

On turning to that important paper we find, that, not only no interest charged on capital, including the value of the slaves, but no allowance made for the excess of deaths over births, nor for other contingencies connected with the system of slavery. We find, moreover, that 15s. 8d. per cwt. was the cost after deducting the value of the rum, so that it barely comprehended the two items of British supplies and island expenses. If we are asked on whose authority these statements are made, we name, the Marquis of Chandos, now Duke of Buckingham, the late Earl St. Vincent, Lords Holland and Scaford, father of the present Lord Howard de Walden; Mr. Douglas, Sir Henry Martin, Sir Edward East, and Messrs. Hibbert, Bayly, Colville, Malcolm, Manning, Colquhoun, Burge, Innes, and others.

In face of the conclusive evidence furnished by the standing Committee of the West India body, the deliberate and oft-repeated statements of the Colonial Legislatures, and the ruin which had overtaken the large body of planters in the several colonies during the time of slavery, it is now attempted to be proved by those interested in the colonies at the present time, that so far from any distress having then existed, the West Indians were deriving splendid fortunes from their estates, and that the whole of the body of evidence laid before the Crown in the shape of memorials, and before Parliament in the form of reports and urgent petitions for relief, was one vast lie. We leave Mr. Higgins, and those who bore similar testimony before the Sugar and Coffee Planting Committees, to settle the question with the surviving members of the standing Committee of the West India planters and merchants; and conclude with a quotation from a dispatch of Viscount Goderich, then Colonial Minister, dated November 5, 1831, which, we believe, not only truly described the distress which existed, but pointed out its true cause.

"The existence of severe commercial distress amongst all classes of society connected with the West Indies, is, unhappily, but too evident. Yet, what is the just inference from this admitted fact? Not that the body should yield to despair, but that we should deliberately retrace the steps of that policy which has led to so disastrous an issue. Without denying the concurrence of many causes, it is obvious that the *great and permanent* source of that distress, which almost every page of the history of the West Indies records, is to be found in the institution of slavery. It is vain to hope for long-continued prosperity in any country in which the people are not dependent on their own voluntary labour for support, in which labour is not prompted by legitimate motives, and does not earn its natural reward." And again, "I cannot but regard the system itself as the perennial spring of those distresses, of which, not at present merely, but during the whole of the last fifty years, the complaints have been so frequent and so just."

MEMORIAL OF THE JAMAICA BAPTIST WESTERN UNION AGAINST AFRICAN IMMIGRATION.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD JOHN RUSSELL, HER MAJESTY'S FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY, ETC. ETC.

MY LORD,—As the ministers of forty-five congregations connected with the Jamaica Baptist Western Union, and representing not less than 60,000 of the emancipated population, we beg permission to address your lordship on the subject of African immigration.

Since the year 1834, as your lordship is doubtless aware, 12,271 persons have been brought to this island from various parts of the world at a cost of £211,616.

A large portion of these were Europeans, who were found to be incapable of agricultural labour in a tropical climate, and being unable to procure employment, were driven for the most part either to vagrancy or pauperism; a few were shipped off the island at the expense of the parishes, or by private benevolence, but the great majority became the prey of disappointment, privation, and

disease, and found an untimely grave; a very small number only remaining to contribute to the welfare of the colony.

Within the last two years, Asiatic immigration has been extensively tried, but has also proved an utter failure. 4551 Coolies have been imported and located in various parts of the island; but so costly has the experiment proved, so great were the mortality and misery which resulted, and so trifling was the amount of labour obtained, that the House of Assembly, (at the desire of the whole community,) has resolved on its abandonment.

The expense of these schemes of immigration has been defrayed out of the public funds, and has pressed unfairly on the mercantile interests, and on those planters, who by prudent management have been able at all times to command a sufficiency of labour for the cultivation of their estates; but it is especially the emancipated classes who have to bear the heaviest portion of the burden of taxation.

Notwithstanding these disastrous and costly failures we regret to learn that many proprietors of estates in this and other West India colonies have sought the permission of Her Majesty's Government to procure immigrant labourers from the Coast of Africa, and after the positive refusals which have been given to former applications, we are filled with astonishment and alarm by the publication of a despatch from the Right Honourable Earl Grey to His Excellency the Governor of this Island, in which it is stated, that "Her Majesty's Government are prepared to take prompt measures for conveying immigrants from the Kroo Coast to the West Indies," at the expense of the colonies, a course which we are convinced is altogether unnecessary, there being, in our opinion, an ample sufficiency of available labour to be obtained in the island; and which, we venture to assert, will be productive of misery to the immigrants, injustice to the emancipated labourers, and disappointment and probable ruin to the planters.

We do not mean to assert that the supply of labour in all districts and at all times is fully equal to the demand. But this may be accounted for by the fact, that great numbers of labourers have been compelled to leave the estates, and to settle in parts of the island where land could most easily be obtained, in consequence of frequent and vexatious attempts to lower and to alter wages, the difficulty in obtaining wages for work performed, the charge of rent to every individual inhabiting the same dwelling-house, the destruction of provision-grounds and other oppressive acts perpetrated soon after the establishment of freedom. But we believe that were they assured of constant work and fair wages regularly paid, then labour might again be secured, while the superabundant population in districts, where estates have been abandoned, might be prevailed upon, (were prudent measures adopted for this purpose,) to remove to neighbourhoods where labour is said to be so much required, and thus the supply and demand might be equalized without having recourse to expensive and disastrous systems of immigration. We may also state, that since the year 1838, population has been rapidly increasing, thus rendering immigration more and more unnecessary.

Such being our convictions, we sincerely trust that Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to institute impartial inquiries, on the spot, as to the results of the various schemes of immigration hitherto attempted: the cause of the deficiency of labour, where experienced, and the willingness of the emancipated labourers to work for moderate wages, regularly paid; and we are persuaded that abundant evidence will be obtained to prove the truth of the statements we have ventured to lay before your lordship.

But we beg farther to submit to your lordship that, if even it can be proved that the island is suffering from a deficiency of labour, it is unjust to tax the people at large to supply that deficiency. We offer no objection to immigration, fairly conducted at the expense of those who expect to be benefitted by it; but believing that the real object of the advocates of immigration (notwithstanding their recent professions to the contrary), is, at the cost of the community, to overstock the labour market, and thus compel our native labourers to work for wages barely sufficient to support existence, we earnestly implore Her Majesty's Government to check this double wrong by refusing to sanction any farther grants of public money which our legislature may make for immigration purposes.

We are also persuaded that the system of immigration now sanctioned will, like all others that have been attempted, be productive of much evil to the immigrants. We have evidence to prove that the Kroomen are only nominally free, being at the

entire disposal of their chiefs; that these chiefs are paid to compel them to emigrate, and that they hold their wives as hostages for their return at the expiration of their contract, when they claim a share in the gains of their labour. With these facts before us, we cannot but fear that there is danger of great cruelty and injustice being practised in obtaining immigrants for the Kroo country, and that the result will be, a resumption of the African slave-trade.

Under the regulations which will doubtless be enforced for transporting the Kroomen, we may hope that they will reach their destination without greater mortality than is usual under such circumstances; but nothing can be more certain than that a large portion of them will die before they are inured to field-labour. They will also be exposed to tyranny and injustice, by being made subject to laws the nature and object of which they will be unable to understand, and unwilling to acknowledge, but which will hold them in a state of semi-slavery, and be productive of constant litigation and discontent.

But not only do we fear the system will prove one of injustice to the Kroomen, we must not conceal from your lordship our apprehension that it will work much evil to the inhabitants of this colony. The Kroomen are known to be idolaters of the worst class, practising the most debasing and demoralizing superstitions; fierce and ungovernable in their passions, and revengeful and cruel in their conduct. We appeal to your lordship, whether the introduction of a large body of these polygamists into the midst of our peasantry, only lately rescued from the darkness of heathenism, will not be likely to cause an awful increase of vice and crime, and, instead of proving beneficial to the Kroomen, have the worst possible effect on the advancing civilization, morality, and religion of the emancipated portion of the community.

We are also convinced that the immigration of Kroomen will be of no real benefit to the planter. We may reasonably expect that the contracts for five years' estates' labour will have well-nigh expired before they will be sufficiently disciplined for continuous work; whilst (as with the Coolies) the cost of their labour, including food, clothing, dwellings, medical attendance, &c., will greatly exceed the amount paid to native labourers. If to this we add the charges of importation, and of returning them to their own country, there is every reason to fear that the results will be as ruinous to the proprietors of estates in this island, as East India immigration has proved to be in the Mauritius,—and that all classes of the community will necessarily share in the calamity.

But the permission granted to the West India proprietors to procure supplies of labour from the Kroo country, as your lordship must be aware, does not yield them satisfaction. They wish for unrestricted access to the African coast, and the right of purchasing slaves, in order to remove them to a state of freedom, that they may benefit by their labour. We need not point out to your lordship the evil which would result from such a course; it is well set forth in the language of your lordship's colleague, the Right Honourable Secretary for the Colonies, who remarks, that "It would be sure to make more slaves than it redeemed, and to make them in the worst way, by furnishing, like the slave-trade itself, a provocative to the system of barbarous outrage and warfare, by which that traffic is fed." We would most gratefully return our thanks to Her Majesty's Government, for withholding the desired permission and earnestly trust that, should this request be repeated, your lordship will give it your unqualified refusal; as we are persuaded, if it were granted, it would not only lead to the increase of the internal slave-trade of Africa, but to a renewal of the horrors of the middle passage, the fearful mortality of the seasoning, and the establishment of a system of modified slavery in this and other colonies.

But especially would we request your lordship's attention to the influence which will be exerted by the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to any system of African immigration, on those countries which still tolerate slavery and the slave-trade. It is not likely to induce them to adhere to both with greater tenacity than ever by conveying to them a false impression, that emancipation in the British colonies has proved a failure; that free labour cannot compete with slave-labour; that sugar can only be successfully cultivated by slaves; and that Great Britain, to save her colonies from ruin, is compelled to sanction the renewal of the slave-trade and slavery under different names? And will it not lead other nations to regard her efforts to abolish slavery and the slave-trade

with suspicion and distrust? We implore you, therefore, my lord, for the sake of your brethren in bondage, and for the sake of wretched Africa, to withdraw your sanction from a system which, while it can do no good to the colonies, will tend to rivet more firmly the fetters of the slave, and to encourage, by the influence and example of Great Britain, the horrible trade in human beings.

As we feel bound not only on economical, but religious grounds, to object to African immigration, we cannot forbear adverting to the admission of the sugars of Cuba and the Brazils into the British market. So far from being opposed to the *legitimate* free-trade, we would advocate it to its fullest extent; but we cannot regard the produce of slave-labour in any other light than that of stolen property; and, we believe, that its admission into the British market is increasing the horrors of slavery, and giving a fearful impetus to the African slave-trade. We therefore trust, that Her Majesty's Government will reconsider the grounds on which they admit slave-grown sugar into competition with the produce of their own free colonies, and that rather than become partakers in the sins of other nations, and inflict injury on Her Majesty's subjects, they will resolve to prohibit its introduction into Great Britain.

We do not imagine that sugar can be cultivated at less cost by slaves than by freemen, but are decidedly of opinion that it can be produced in this island, and, at the present rate of wages, as cheaply as in the days of slavery, and unless an advantage is gained by Cuba and the Brazils, in the possession of a more fertile soil, there can be little question, but with the use of machinery, skilful management, and command of capital, our planters will be able to compete with those who have an unlimited supply of slave-labour.

We beg, however, most emphatically to state to your lordship, our firm belief, that unless there be a change in the system pursued by a large portion of the proprietors, the island cannot prosper. Its wealth has annually been drained from it to support absentees, whose interests have been committed to strangers. But if proprietors would reside in the island, superintending the management of their own estates, and discharging those social and moral obligations inseparably connected with their position, they would receive a larger return for capital expended, than landed property generally yields in the mother country; or, if they consented to lease out their estates in small farms, for the cultivation and manufacture of sugar, it would pay them well, while it would raise the peasantry in the scale of Society.

In conclusion, we desire to bear our testimony to the industry and general good conduct of the emancipated labourers, and beg to assure your lordship, that we shall continue to exhort them to diligence and uprightness, obedience to the laws, and loyalty to the Queen, and that we shall use whatever influence we possess in seeking to promote the welfare of the island at large.

We have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's humble and obedient servants,

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| (Signed on behalf of the members connected with the Jamaica Western Union) | { | JAMES M. PHILLIPPO, |
| | | Chairman. |
| | | BENJAMIN MILLARD, |
| | | Secretary. |

ON THE DISUSE OF SLAVE LABOUR PRODUCE.

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE SLAVE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The time seems to have arrived when those who are oppressed with a sense of the iniquities of American slavery should unite, as with one heart and hand, for doing their utmost for the deliverance of the crushed and bleeding bondsman. * * * A path for showing mercy is open to us, if we will but walk in it; a path peculiarly appropriate to us, the women of Great Britain, who have the furnishing of the wardrobes and tables of our households. Let us abstain from the use of slave produce, as far as this is practicable, and not only will the effort be satisfactory to our own consciences, but it will most surely be beneficial to the slave. The difficulties before us will be great; but they are not insuperable. The cries of the oppressed have reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts; and He will be with us and bless us, if we labour in his name, and go forward with simple faith and trust in his promises.

It is believed that the call for free produce will have the certain effect of speedily bringing it into the British market. It is possible that, for a few months, we may have to pay a trifle more for our goods than at present; but if we are steadfast and persevering, in

a little while the free goods will compete with the slave-grown in price as well as quality, besides possessing the rich advantage of the raw material not having been produced under the lash of the cruel driver.

It does not appear to be generally understood, that a large quantity of free-grown cotton, perfectly available for British use, is raised even in the United States, and that it is only because British and American abolitionists do not call for it that it is not kept by itself, but is merged in the ordinary supplies. This fact is fully substantiated by the excellent men forming the Philadelphia Free Produce Association. They have given their attention to the subject for many years past, and can advance ample evidence to prove that thousands of bales of free cotton may be poured into this country, at a few months' notice, if British abolitionists come to the conclusion that both consistency and common humanity clearly call for their preferring free-grown to slave produce.

The Philadelphia Association sends its agents through the Southern States. These individuals are men of integrity, and proceed carefully through large districts, finding out the free plantations that are scattered among the slave-holding estates, and purchasing, or making arrangements for purchasing, their cotton. One of these agents has recently been over extensive districts in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee, and, by the last accounts, was proceeding to Texas. His report is, that thousands of bales of free cotton may be secured in the coming autumn, if there should be a demand for it from Great Britain. The non-slaveholders are already cheered with the intelligence of a free-labour movement in England, and, with the hope of its going forwards, have determined to increase their cotton cultivation. If they had more gins, the quantity they could send might be increased to an almost indefinite extent; for the agent remarks that thousands of bales, which are cultivated by freemen, are at present sold in the seed to gin-owners, who hold slaves. He advises them to procure gins for themselves; and they seem disposed to do so. This agent also reports that the slave-holders see the consistency of the movement so clearly that they do not offer any serious opposition, and some of the better disposed even aid him. It may be added that the non-slaveholders will take great care to pick and handle their cotton "nice and clean," should a special demand be raised for it; and, even now, this free-labour cotton is said to be generally in better condition than that handled by slaves.

When referring to this examination of the cotton districts some months ago, our valued friend, Samuel Rhoads, of Philadelphia, remarked, "Let it be done on an extensive scale, and the discussion of the slavery question will be introduced upon every plantation in the South, with the inevitable conviction, on the minds of the slaveholders, that the time is not distant when they must adopt measures to remove the evil from among them." It is hoped that a few hundred bales of free cotton may arrive in Liverpool before long; but there have been great difficulties in determining who must be the importers. It will be sent, however, *if called for*; and it is manifest that the largeness of the supply will be exactly commensurate with the future demand.

We come next to the British West Indies. It would be a most important help to these islands, in their present depressed condition, for the call for *their* produce to be distinct and specific. An intelligent friend of the free-labour cause has lately forwarded a lithographed circular to many of the leading men in those islands, inviting their cordial co-operation in the present effort. The British West Indies already send thousands of bales of free cotton into Liverpool each year. Why should not this cotton be secured for the use of anti-slavery purchasers?

We turn next to British India, with her mighty resources. It is but for the present system of gross imposition and taxation to be removed, and India would present a boundless field for the cultivation of free cotton. Even now, a great deal comes into the Liverpool market; and though, for the most part, it is stated by the manufacturers to be unsuited for the entire fabric of their articles, it answers well for the woof, so that when it is combined with cotton of a longer staple, the two united form an excellent material. * * *

A Liverpool merchant lately remarked, "Our supplies from the East and West Indies give our manufacturers the opportunity of supplying an extensive demand for free goods, whenever they may be called for, I believe."

From this united evidence, it appears that what is required is, for the free cotton to be kept by itself, and for it to be manufactured and sold in the form of FREE LABOUR goods. The greater

the demand for these goods, the greater will be the supply; and it is the largeness of the quantity required that will quickly bring their price to an equality with the slave-grown. A firm of merchants in Liverpool, and another firm of cotton brokers, have kindly promised their aid in keeping the free cotton by itself, when committed to their care; and they will aim at selling it to manufacturers prepared to meet the wishes of the consumers.

We come now to the position of the Manchester manufacturers. These gentlemen state that they will make the free-labour articles, if they can be sure that the public will call for them; but that they wish to be convinced of the existence of sufficient anti-slavery interest for this call to become loud and decided.

Watchful and devoted friends of the slave! it is at this juncture that your simultaneous and energetic efforts are respectfully, but earnestly entreated. What testimony can you give to the manufacturers, that their free-labour goods will be preferred to the slave-grown? For a while, the supply of free cotton to which they can resort is but limited; but it will increase as soon as it is known abroad that the people of Great Britain are specifically calling for it; and, Oh! will they not "call," when their oppressed brethren and sisters require so very simple a boon at their hands?—a boon so cheap, and involving so little self-denial, that it would be hard indeed not to yield it cheerfully, when, by doing so, we may become the happy instruments of loosening their fetters. Simple as is the required effort, a promise that it shall be made seems to be imperatively called for; as, until the manufacturers obtain it, (with one or two exceptions,) they stand still, and decline to enter upon any experimental trials.

If the anti-slavery friends in each town which this circular may reach, will kindly ascertain what will be the probable interest and consumption in their own locality, these united testimonies may be put into a forcible and concentrated form, and be forwarded to the manufacturers.

Will the members of the Society of Friends be one and all true to the free-labour cause, thus treading in the footsteps of their worthy predecessors, John Woolman, David Sands, and Anthony Benezet? Will the ministers of the various religious denominations support it? Will their leading members do so? Will there be one or more shop-keepers in each town to second the effort?

The united forces of these various coadjutors will form a phalanx that no pro-slavery influence can put down; and whether or not a sensible impression can be made upon the cotton market, a moral demonstration may undoubtedly be exhibited, before which the slaveholder shall quail—the free labour flag may be unfurled, and the waving of its folds will be visible even across the wide Atlantic.

Many of our friends are aware that a coloured advocate (late a slave in Kentucky) has been invited to this country, as a public champion of the free-labour cause. It was thought that no lecturer on the subject could speak so forcibly as one who had himself groaned under the iron yoke of slavery, and that no appeals to abstain from slave produce would be so effective as those from the lips of a personal sufferer.

This invitation to Henry Bibb was forwarded to him, in the autumn of last year, through the medium of our honoured friend, Gerrit Smith. The latter was previously known to be deeply interested in the free labour cause, and had mentioned to one of his English correspondents, that he and his family had abstained from the use of slave produce for more than the last twelve years, and that they considered that "God had blessed them in this effort," and that it had "made their hearts more true and tender to the slave."

Wm. E. Whiting (treasurer to the American and Foreign Anti-slavery Society) writes from New York, on the 30th of November—

"H. B. is, I think, a good Christian man, of excellent sense. He tells his story so as greatly to move the hearts, and sometimes draw tears from the eyes of all who have human sympathies; and he has certainly seen and felt many of the most horrible evils of slavery. He is gentlemanly and neat in appearance."

Lewis Tappan, of New York, remarks, about the same period—

"Henry Bibb is a light mulatto, of good personal appearance, mild and winning address, a good voice, and Christian principles. His narrative and exhortations are extremely interesting and convincing."

Frederick Douglass wrote, at the close of last year—

"I have no doubt that if Mr. Bibb goes to England, and makes the free produce question the prominent object of his mission, and thoroughly acquaints himself with the subject, he will be able to enlist much feeling

on his behalf, and do much toward deepening the already commendable deep hatred of slavery in your land."

Henry Bibb, in a letter, for which we are sorry we have no space, has accepted the invitation, and is now it is expected on his way to this country. It is proposed for him to come to the North of England for a few days, and then to proceed to Scotland for a summer campaign, returning to England early in the autumn.

Having given this outline of the present state of the free labour effort, the supporters of the cause in Newcastle wish respectfully to lay before their friends at large, that they are now about to aim at raising a little subscription for Henry Bibb's passage, and also for assisting him to publish his interesting "Narrative," the circulation of which cannot fail to do much towards enlisting the sympathies of the public in the cause of the negro.

Pecuniary assistance for any of the above objects will be gratefully received, and faithfully appropriated, if forwarded to the care of Henry Richardson, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Copies of anti-slavery tracts will be sent to the donors; and, as far as practicable, these will be informed, from time to time, of the prospects of the cause, and of the apparently best means of carrying it forward.

On behalf of the Newcastle Ladies' Free Produce Association,
I remain, respectfully,

ANNA H. RICHARDSON, Sec.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, 4th Mo. 17th, 1848.

* * Any communications on the subject may be addressed to No. 5, Summerhill Grove, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ILLUSTRATION OF BRAZILIAN SLAVERY.

A Montevideo newspaper contains the following statement. Lord Howden is British Minister at the Court of Brazil.

"In the beginning of September a little negro girl either strayed unintentionally or came wilfully into the court before the country house inhabited by Lord Howden, in the mountains behind the city of Rio Janeiro. The girl could not speak a word of Portuguese, being fresh from the coast of Africa, and she therefore was unable to give any account of herself or explain the motive of her coming to the British minister's residence.

"Lord Howden, waiting till the negress should be claimed, retained her for three days; on the fourth morning a Senhor Leitte, a rich merchant, notorious for his slave-dealing practices, came and claimed the girl. Lord Howden told him he would send her to the house of the British legation in Rio at a certain hour in the day, and, if he there proved that she was born in the country, and she belonged to him, she should be delivered up, on the promise that she should not be punished for what she had done. M. Leitte said that if that was the case he should certainly not go and claim her, as she was, he confessed, a newly imported slave, and ought, therefore, to be given up to the government, and that Lord Howden's proposition was merely a snare to get him into trouble.

"In the course of the day the negress was put under the care of a lady who had been staying at Lord Howden's and was returning to Rio with her maid. The party had hardly proceeded a hundred yards, when in the middle of a darkly shaded path a dozen black slaves, headed by a white overseer, all armed with bludgeons, rushing from behind the trees where they had concealed themselves, and knocked down the lady and her maid. In trying to cover their eyes so as not to see, and in stopping their mouth so as to prevent their shrieks being heard, these ruffians tore all their clothes, and while these unprotected women were left half dead on the ground, the white overseer threw the little negress over his shoulder and they ran into the thicket from which they had emerged.

"After they had disappeared, the lady suspecting from what quarter the assault proceeded, with great presence of mind ran to a spot whence she could see the village where Senhor Leitte lived, and shortly afterward she perceived the white man and the black slaves go into a house that was building, but without the negress; she then ran to Lord Howden's cottage and told him what had taken place, and accompanied by her, his lordship went to the place where this gang of ruffians had been seen to enter.

"At this moment the white overseer put his head out of the window of a half built house, and thinking the coast clear, came into the yard, which was unfinished and open, with two other white persons, but neither of whom was Senhor Leitte, who had taken good care to absent himself, and leave the execution of the outrage to others. On the white overseer being identified by the lady, Lord Howden, though single handed, walked up to the man standing between his two countrymen and in the midst of his blacks, seized him by the collar, threw him down and tied his hands behind him with his handkerchief, to the utter astonishment of a large crowd which by this time collected.

"His lordship then told the man to walk before him, and thus marched him into town, a distance of about four miles, where he lodged him in the power of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In a country like Brazil,

where there is one great and continuous slave dealing league against the efforts of England, any attempt to arrest, short of such an act of energy as the above, would have been perfectly illusory. As it is, the negress has never been heard of since.

"Senhor Leitte is a man of the worst character, and through his tortuous dealings has amassed considerable property. He is generally accused of having once roasted his cook alive for having over-dressed his dinner. To do the Imperial Government justice, it has not sought to screen the author of the outrage."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY FOR THE UNIVERSAL EXTINCTION OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE-TRADE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

A CONFERENCE

Of its Members and Friends will be held at the HALL OF COMMERCE, THREADNEEDLE-STREET, on SATURDAY, the 20th Instant, at ELEVEN O'CLOCK in the MORNING precisely, to meet the Committee for the purpose of considering what measures shall be taken to prevent the future introduction of slave-grown Sugars into the British market; the schemes of African Immigration to the British Colonies; and the Coercive Colonial Legislation which is intended at the present time to be carried into effect.

The friends of the Anti-Slavery cause are respectfully invited to attend.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Will take place in the HALL OF COMMERCE, THREADNEEDLE-STREET, on MONDAY EVENING, the 22nd of May, 1848.

GEORGE WILLIAM ALEXANDER, Esq. in the Chair.

A Deputation from the United States, and several friends from the British Colonies, together with other gentlemen, are expected to address the meeting.

The Chair will be taken at HALF-PAST SIX O'CLOCK precisely.

Admission to the Conference and to the Public Meeting, by tickets, to be had at the Society's Office, 27, New Broad-street; Messrs. Ward, Paternoster-row; Hatchard and Son, 187, Piccadilly; James Nisbet, Berner's-street, Oxford-street; Jos. Sterry and Sons, 158, High-street, Borough; and Charles Gilpin, Bishopsgate-street Without.

The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, MONDAY, MAY 1st, 1848.

Our readers will see, by the foregoing advertisement, that the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society will be held at the Hall of Commerce, Threadneedle-street, on Monday evening, the 22nd of May, and that the chair will be taken by the Treasurer of the Society, GEORGE WILLIAM ALEXANDER, Esq. It is proposed by the Committee, that Saturday, the 20th instant shall be devoted to a Conference of the members and friends of the Society, who are hereby respectfully and urgently invited to meet the Committee at the same place, to take into consideration the present position of the anti-slavery cause; but more especially to consider—first, what means should be taken to prevent the continuance of those deplorable evils which have resulted from the introduction of slave-grown sugars into the British markets, which fatal policy has not only increased the slave-trade with Cuba and Brazil to an enormous extent, augmented the sufferings and mortality of its victims, and strengthened the institution of slavery in those countries, but has also inflicted the most serious losses upon the emancipated colonies; and rendered it doubtful whether, under present circumstances, their increasing cultivation will not be seriously checked, and thus a new advantage be given to slave-dealers and slave-holders; and Africa be still further desolated and degraded to supply sugar to England and Europe. Secondly, the proposed scheme of African emigration to the British colonies, which is clamorously demanded by the West India body, and which, if carried into effect, cannot fail to renew the slave-trade under a new name, and give birth to a modified system of slavery;

and, Thirdly, the severe laws which either have already gone into effect, or which are projected, by which it is intended to coerce the labour, and restrict the just liberties of the emancipated classes.

The Committee would not have ventured to summon the members and friends of the Society together in this especial manner, if they were not thoroughly convinced of the urgent necessity which exists for such a step. They, therefore, trust that an effort will be kindly made by their country friends, as well as by those residing in the metropolis and its vicinity, to be with them on Saturday, the 20th instant, at the proposed time and place of meeting. In doing so, they are persuaded they will render good service to the anti-slavery cause, not only in this country, but throughout the world.

The Committee expect the public meeting will be one of unusual interest, from the important subjects which will engage its attention, and the parties who are expected to address it.

The advertisements, giving full particulars, will be inserted in the usual newspapers.

We expected to have been able, in the present number of the *Reporter*, to have given a translation of the decree for the abolition of slavery in the French Colonies, which we understand was signed on the 24th of April last by the Provisional Government, but which from some unaccountable circumstance has not yet reached us.

The decree provides for the abolition of slavery in all the colonies and possessions of France, and, consequently, embraces Algiers and Senegal, as well as Martinique and Guadeloupe, and their dependencies, Bourbon and Cayenne, and the French establishments in the East. The decree is to take effect in two months after its publication in the colonies. An indemnity is to be granted to the slave-owners, the amount and form of which will be settled by the National Assembly. All traffic in slaves between proprietors in the colonies is interdicted from the day of the publication of the decree; all introduction, by hire or otherwise, of negroes into the colonies is forbidden. The latter clause is intended to prevent the importation of negroes from Senegal, by any system similar to that of the Hill Coolies, into the British colonies. Thus by one vigorous and well-considered act, justice will be done to upwards of 250,000 wretched slaves. No doubt there are many in France and in this country, who will cry out against this great act of justice and humanity, as precipitate; but we, on the contrary, commend it as both wise and righteous. Had the Government and Parliament of this country dealt with slavery in the British colonies after the same fashion, they would have prevented an infinitude of evils, which have marred the great work of negro emancipation in those colonies. We are fully satisfied that our French friends know well what they are about, and have profited by our experience.

In the March number of the *Reporter* we gave the address of M. Perrinon to the French colonists, intimating the course which the Provisional Government intended to pursue in relation to slavery. The following notices will show how it was received.

Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, March 28, 1848.

"No news has ever caused more pleasure than that which we received by the last steamer. Joyful faces are everywhere to be seen. A letter from M. Perinon, well conceived and well expressed, has had the happy effect of drawing together the black and white population. This letter has been perfectly understood, and has fully accomplished the desired end.

"The proclamation of the governor was cold and inanimate, but M. Segniere, the mayor of Basse-Terre, and General Ambert, president of the Colonial Council, have published simple but energetic manifestos which have completely removed the suspicion aroused by the conduct of the governor.

"The men of colour received with enthusiasm the proclamation of M. Segniere, and sent a deputation of 300 of their number to wait upon him. As soon as they arrived at his house, they formed in a semi-circle, and chanted the Marseillaise. After this demonstration, the town resumed its former quiet. Everything now goes on just as usual; the men of colour work, the negroes work, and we await the consummation with firmness."

Basse-Terre, March 28, 1848.

"The union of the people of colour with the whites is complete here. The admirable letter of M. Perrinon has produced the desired effect. Yesterday evening, the men of colour gave a banquet to M. Segnieres, and assured him of their loyal and sincere co-operation.

"At Point-a-Pitre, on the contrary, the municipal authorities have done nothing, and I am sorry to say, there still remains a line of demarcation between the two classes.

"As the intelligence reached us only two days since, it has not spread very much throughout the country. We hope, however, that the public tranquillity will not be disturbed."

Point-a-Pitre, March 27, 1848.

"The country enjoys the greatest tranquillity. The slaves are perfectly aware of everything that has happened at Paris. They have full confidence in the government of the Republic, and expect soon to obtain their liberty. Our advice has been taken, and the solution of the great question must no longer be delayed."

Saint Pierre, Martinique, March 28, 1848.

"The revolution of the 24th of February, has been received in Martinique with the same unanimity by all the different classes of the population, as it was in France. However, our Government must not delay to grant emancipation, the slaves expect to receive it by the next mail. It must no longer be considered as a question of humanity alone, but also as a question of policy, as a question of order and security. Too long deceived by false hopes, the blacks are determined that it shall not be so this time."

It is impossible to foretell the results which will follow the abolition of slavery in the French colonies. One thing, however, is certain, it will hasten the downfall of the atrocious institution throughout the world. Holland must follow the example of England and France. She cannot continue slavery in her principal colony of Surinam, when, on both sides, and on all points, it is environed by free-men.

In our last number we gave the prospectus of a society which had been established in Germany to promote the abolition of slavery. The translation handed to us was not only imperfect, but misrepresented the meaning of the originators of the society in several material points; we therefore hasten to correct the errors committed, and to express our sincere satisfaction, that what appeared to us a defect in the principles of the German Society, did not in reality exist. The prospectus being short, we give it in its new dress:—

"Convinced of the necessity of using our utmost efforts for the abolition of slavery, as the most dreadful evil ever inflicted upon man, and the source of unutterable misery to millions of mankind;

"Persuaded that it has now become a sacred duty for the German people to unite with other nations in endeavouring to exterminate this high treason against the human race;

"Impressed, moreover, with the conviction that it is our duty to preserve our countrymen emigrating to countries where slavery exists, from its foul contaminations;

"And having been repeatedly called upon by friends in the United States to assist in opposing the system of slavery which obtains there;

"We, the undersigned, have constituted ourselves into a Provisional Committee for the organization of a German Society for the abolition of slavery; and have resolved, from this time forth, to take all such steps as may be necessary for accomplishing the desired end.

(Signed)

"GAGERN (Minister of State).

C. WILCKER (Professor).

C. F. HEYDER (Banker).

DR. F. H. CAROVÉ.

DR. W. KUNZEL.

DR. J. W. WOLF.

M. BECK.

F. HAAR.

G. FISCHER."

"Darmstadt, January 23, 1848.

The Sugar and Coffee Planting Committee have not yet presented their report to the House of Commons. What measures they will recommend for the relief of the West Indian body it is impossible to say; but we would prepare our friends for certain extravagant proposals, which neither the government nor the

country ought to accept. So far as the present distress of the planters can be traced to the Sugar Act of 1846, they ought to be relieved; but that can only be done by the future prohibition of all slave-grown sugars into the British markets. To exclude foreign free-labour sugars by the operation of a heavy differential duty, we hold to be wrong in principle, injurious to the consumers of sugar in this country, and obstructive to the cause of general emancipation, and of the better cultivation, and more economical management of estates in the colonies.

The blunder committed by the government in 1846, in allowing the sugars of Cuba and Brazil to come into competition with those from our own possessions abroad, will, we fear, be attempted to be remedied by the importation of hordes of Africans into the colonies at the public expense. Already it has been announced by the Premier, that after Easter, the Government will propose a loan to British Guiana and Trinidad of £200,000 for immigration purposes, and that, if it be once done, will be followed by other votes for similar purposes, until the colonies get so enormously into debt to the mother country, as to be unable to pay, and then the House will be called upon, as in the case of the £20,000,000 slave-compensation, to change the loan into a gift. All the proceedings of the Government are driving to that point. But, we ask, are the people of this country, sorely burthened as they are with home taxes, prepared for this new demand on their resources? Are they willing that any portion of the public funds shall be appropriated to a renewal of the slave-trade with Africa? If not, they must make a bold and vigorous stand against the governmental proposition; and be prepared to measure their strength with the West India body, backed up by Lord George Bentinck's committee, when its report shall be laid before the House of Commons.

One section of the West India body demand that the colonies should be considered as an integral part of the country, and that their sugars should be allowed to enter the British markets free of duty, and that the present duty of 20s. per cwt. on foreign sugars, both free and slave-grown, should be continued; that the duties levied on colonial and British spirits should be equalized; that the navigation laws should be repealed; that they should be allowed unrestricted access to the coast of Africa for labourers; that loans for drainage and other internal colonial improvements should be granted; and that the local taxation should be considerably reduced. Another section of the body require a protective duty of 10s. per cwt. against all foreign sugars; unrestricted access to the African coast and elsewhere for labourers; more effectual measures for the suppression of the slave-trade, the equalization of the home and colonial spirit duties; the reduction of colonial expenditure; and Parliamentary loans for effecting internal colonial improvements. Other demands have been made, but these are the principal. We may, however, notice one, that of removing the cruisers from the coast of Africa, and the application of the whole, or a part of the funds saved thereby, to the importation of Africans into the British colonies: in other words, the West India body want a supply of African labour, at the public expense, to enable them to dispense, if need be, with the services of the emancipated slaves. Give them what they require, and you not only revive the slave-trade, but lay the foundation, for the renewal of a modified system of slavery in the British colonies.

In looking over the demands of the West Indians, it is impossible to deny that some of their claims are founded in justice; our best endeavours shall not be wanting to aid them in effecting colonial reforms; but we shall resist them in every attempt to restrict the liberties of the emancipated classes, or to treat any portion of immigrants as other than freemen, or to revive in any form or for any purpose the African slave-trade.

We commend to the special attention of our readers the documents which will be found in the present number of the *Reporter*, recently received from Jamaica. They consist of a memorial to Lord John Russell from the Jamaica Baptist Union, against African immigration, and a series of petitions from several parishes and townships in the same island, praying that Parliament will not consent to any future immigration of labourers, except at the expense of those who are intended to be benefitted by their services. This is a most reasonable request, as will be seen by consulting the petitions. We have given these petitions at length, because they record important facts which we are unwilling should be lost.

Literature.

Memoir of Sir Thomas Powell Buxton, Bart., with Selections from his Correspondence. Edited by his Son, CHARLES BUXTON, Esq. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1848. One Vol., pp. 600.

We have risen from the perusal of this intensely interesting and delightful volume with a keen sense of the loss which the world has sustained, by the death of him, whose character and labours it so ably portrays and illustrates.

It might have been expected that the affectionate partiality of the son of so excellent a father and so eminent a man, would have betrayed itself in an undue appreciation of his great personal worth, and an overwrought estimate of his various philanthropic labours; but we can conscientiously say, that the volume before us is a model in this respect. To a style remarkable for its lucidity and elegance, the editor unites a severity of taste which never betrays him into the expression of rapid sentimentality, or the utterance of thoughts unworthy the noble character, and manly piety of his lamented father.

The late period at which these memoirs have come into our hands, prevents us from doing more than recommend their immediate perusal to our friends. They will revive the memory of one of the best of men and greatest benefactors of our race; and will, we trust, lead many to copy his fine example.

A Word on behalf of the Slave; or, a Mite Cast into the Treasury of Love. pp. 113. Charles Gilpin, 5, Bishopsgate-street Without, 1848.

We are free to confess that we opened this unpretending little volume with prepossessions in its favour. It affords us satisfaction at all times to be able to welcome and encourage well-directed efforts for the promotion of the great object we have in view. And we are fully convinced that if the duty urged upon us so forcibly in these pages were faithfully performed, and accompanied with active exertion, the time would not be far distant when the down-trodden and oppressed of the human race would go free.

The author was induced to prepare this work for the press through reading the accompanying extract:—

PRAYER FOR THE SLAVE.

Let all abolitionists, who believe in a God that hears and answers prayer, improve this privilege and duty to pray fervently and without ceasing for the destruction of this hydro-headed monster, stalking in the midst of us, and destroying all which is lovely in the land. The monthly concert ought to be observed. Nor should this suffice; we should remember this cause daily in our private devotions. Nor should we merely make mention of it, we should wrestle with God; we should plead with him to answer our prayers for his great Name Sake. In our prayers we should remember the slave-holder and pray to God that his mind may be enlightened and be brought to repentance. * * * *

We ought to remember that the hearts of all men are in the hand of the Lord—that he can work wonders among slave-holders in the midst of slavery, and there raise witnesses for the truth by thousands who shall be efficient instruments in the overthrow of this great enemy to the truth of God and the rights of man. Brethren, "have faith in God!" and pray without ceasing, and you shall see that Israel's King is yet able to work wonders in Egypt, and deliver the oppressed people with a high hand and an out-stretched arm!—*Paw. Rec. (U. S.)*

We have only space to give an outline of this work. The first chapter contains a letter to the clergy of all denominations, especially to those of the United States, urging upon them the duty of making public and express prayer on behalf of the slave, that thus the minds of their congregations generally may be directed to his sufferings, and that their devotions may likewise arise to God on their behalf. The second portion of the work contains the author's views on slavery, and a general call upon all to unite in prayer for the slave. The third part contains various stirring facts expressive of the condition and privations of the slave, with reflections on the peculiar feature of the illustration, on which is grounded a prayer, suited to the various relations of life, which the illustration may tend to impress more powerfully on one member than another. For example: we have the fact stated, that the masters of slave children are frequently their fathers, and when in need of money, they do not hesitate to sell them! On this we have based some reflections suited to impress the heart of a father, and a prayer embodying the reflections. The author has no desire to impose his forms on others, his sole object has been to direct the mind into a course of meditation which he deems suitable to the case.

Without affirming that we subscribe to every view of the excellent author, we may nevertheless say, that we entirely approve of his object; and that the book has our cordial recommendation, not only on account of its intrinsic merits, but its extreme cheapness.

WEST INDIES—LUCEA—ANTI-IMMIGRATION MEETING.

The anti-immigration meeting, to which we alluded in our last, appears to have been most interesting. James Storey, Esq., being unanimously called to the chair, remarked as follows:—

That the planting interest is dreadfully depressed is too evident. It is felt by every one of us; but to the assertion that immigration is the only remedy, or that it is any remedy at all, I demur. It is not an untried experiment. Immense sums have been paid to import the Irish, the German, the Portuguese from Madeira, and last of all the Coolies; and from which of them has the country been advantaged? Are not planters themselves the very first in confessing their disappointment, and in acknowledging their wish, that a Coolie had never trod upon our shores? What is to constitute the pre-eminent usefulness of the Kroomen? Is it that they are at the beck of their petty sovereign, and dare not refuse to go wherever gold tempts him to command? Or is it that three years expatriation from his country, his wife, and his family, will induce him to become a useful citizen in the midst of temptation and sin?

The Rev. Mr. May in moving the first resolution said—

There can be no doubt about it, that a crisis has arrived in our island history—dark and portentous clouds hover around the horizon of our future prospects, and threaten to fill the whole sphere of our vision. I will not say that this crisis has not been accelerated by recent free-trade measures at home; but of this I am convinced, that, apart altogether from such movements, to a crisis we are hastening, and to a crisis we shall come in a short time. The fact is, there is something radically wrong in West Indian affairs. Is it that the old time princely planters, rolling as deeply in luxury as in wealth, bequeathed to the planters of our day a diminished capital, and mortgaged estates? Is it that a Jamaica estate is taxed, to support an attorney, an overseer, and book-keeper, without having the benefit of its owner's surveillance? Is it that we are now suffering the inevitable consequences of a system of demoralization that once cursed this lovely isle? Or is it that we have not labourers enough to cultivate our soil? Most firmly, Mr. Chairman, do I believe that the disease is a complicated one; but as firmly am I persuaded, that lack of labour is no part of the cause of the evils under which we groan, and that, therefore, immigration is not the remedy to heal our woes. Will immigration raise the sugar market? Will it replenish the planters' exhausted exchequer? Will it redeem their mortgaged estates? What! are the Africans coming to work the estates for little or no pay? This scheme carried out will do us more harm than good. We want capital, for the estates say they cannot pay the present labourers. But have former immigration schemes succeeded? Let the European, let the Asiatic remains of a miserable policy speak out!

The Chairman,—I enter my decided protest against the cruel and iniquitous scheme, because we do not want those Africans—they will be a curse and not a blessing to Jamaica. I protest, because if we did want them we are too poor to pay for them just now. I protest, because if we could pay for them they can never relieve us of our present difficulties; and I further protest, because if they could relieve us, the scheme proposed for obtaining and securing them, is a disgrace to humanity, and the abhorrence of God.

John D. Armstrong seconded the resolution. The purport of his speech was, the expression of his belief that if the people worked well, and the planter paid them well, they did not want labourers from Africa.

William Browne, Esq., in seconding the second resolution, said,—The disadvantages of the measure were apparent to the simplest understanding. He had been informed, that the same system was to be pursued, as in the case of the Coolies; that is, that these Africans were to be brought here at the expense of the island, the greater portion unaccompanied by their wives; they were to serve for a certain time—THREE YEARS,—and then, if they pleased, be taken home again, with, of course, a large amount of money. Now, they would be sure to go back; new ones would be constantly coming, and there would be a large sum of money spent, without the island deriving any advantage. He firmly believed, that the importation of these people would greatly increase the immorality and crime which are among us. He believed, that if greater care, skill, and economy, were used in the cultivation of sugar; if the planters would pay more attention to the light which science is every day throwing on agriculture; and if we were relieved from the baneful effects of absenteeism, we should not require anything like Coolie or Kroo immigration.

The third resolution was moved by the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, seconded by William Browne, Esq. Mr. Armstrong said:—

The resolution I rise to move is one of deep interest and importance. It speaks of the morality or rather immorality of those it is wished by some to bring amongst us. Of the Kroomen much is known, as for a number of years they have been occasionally engaged in working vessels on the coast whose crews have been either carried off by the deadly nature of the climate of Africa, or so much debilitated as to be unable to discharge their duty as seamen. Kroomen are, to all intents and purposes, slaves; captains of ships, requiring their services, must bargain with

their chiefs or fathers, as they call them. This is true, and can be proved from sources unquestionable. And these are the men it is the wish of some in this colony to introduce here,—thieves, men thirsting for gain, polygamists. And what for? Because continuous labour cannot be procured upon a few estates, though this is very questionable. Surely we have immorality enough in Jamaica. We are low enough already, without these wretches to pollute us more. And then as to their numbers, those acquainted with Africa inform us, that there are 40,000 men, women, and children occupying a few towns on the coasts; they do not wish to leave, and never will, if left to their own choice. Shall we force them? We must not. They cannot benefit the colony in any way, and past experience (and we have had enough, surely) points to other remedies for the diseases which afflict us, and unless speedily applied, that which we have cried out against so long will actually come upon us. With these remarks, I cordially move the resolution.

JAMAICA—PETITIONS AGAINST AFRICAN EMIGRATION.

The following important petitions embodying the sentiment of the middle and labouring classes in Jamaica, on the subject of immigration, &c., have been forwarded to us for presentation:—

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS, &c., &c.

The humble petition of the undersigned freeholders, labourers, and others in the eastern portion of the parish of Saint Ann's, and neighbouring part of St. Mary's, Jamaica—

Sheweth,—That your petitioners have learnt, with the deepest regret, that Her Majesty's Government have determined to sanction the introduction of a large supply of labourers from Africa into this island, at the expense of the colony.

That your petitioners are fully convinced that there is no want of labourers in the island to carry on the cultivation of estates, and for all other agricultural purposes, and that, where labour is not obtained, it arises chiefly from want of capital.

That many of your petitioners reside in districts where numbers of able hands are unable to obtain employment or to secure the reasonable payment of their wages, when the work is performed.

That your petitioners regard it as a grievous wrong, that immigrants should be introduced at the expense of the public, and at the cost of those who, in many ways, will be affected by it, and whose wages, they believe, it is intended thereby eventually to reduce.

The undersigned feel themselves bound to petition against the proposed scheme of African immigration in particular, because they have every reason to fear that it will materially increase the internal slave-trade; because it is calculated to spread immorality and superstition in this island, and may lead to sad discord between the planters and labourers; and because it will afford slave-dealing countries greater facilities to carry on the slave-trade.

Your petitioners further fear, that like every previous and similar public immigration scheme, so this plan of procuring labourers from Africa, if persisted in, will establish a system of jobbery, imposition, cruelty, and death.

Your petitioners, therefore, implore your Honourable House to withhold its high sanction to the proposed scheme, and to oppose all measures that may be submitted to its approval for giving it effect.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c., &c., &c.

(540 Signatures.)

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS, &c., &c.

The humble petition of the undersigned connected with the congregation of Protestant Dissenters, assembling at Salter's-hill, in the parish of St. James, in the Island of Jamaica,

Humbly sheweth,—That your petitioners have seen, with deep concern, a despatch of the Right Honourable Earl Grey to His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, authorizing a scheme for the introduction of immigrants in large numbers from Western Africa to this island; the expense attendant thereon to be defrayed by this colony.

Your petitioners humbly represent to your Honourable House, that the inhabitants at large, of this island, consisting of a population of about three hundred and seventy-four thousand, have been taxed already for immigration purposes to the amount of about two hundred and fifty thousand pounds, or about thirteen shillings per head for every inhabitant of this colony; and that on the publication of the aforesaid despatch, the House of Assembly voted last session, out of the public treasury, the sum of fifteen thousand pounds, to carry into effect the proposed scheme during the present year.

That your petitioners have derived no benefit from the introduction of immigrant labourers; and they have, during the progress of the immigration scheme, petitioned the Colonial Legislature, for relief from taxation for such purposes, but in vain; and, therefore, now appeal to your Honourable House for interference.

Your petitioners, moreover, believe that no good whatever has resulted from immigration to this island, even to the parties for whose special

benefit it was designed; that the planters have not been able to extend, by the services of the immigrants, the cultivation of the soil; and that produce would have been fully as much, if the 12,271 persons had never been introduced.

Your petitioners assert that the system of immigration hitherto carried on has been the cause of great suffering, and in very many instances of premature death to the parties who have been brought hither. As no official inquiry has been made as to the number of deaths that have taken place among the immigrants, no correct estimate can be formed; but from official documents, it is stated, up to December, 1843, that 1,038 Germans were introduced, yet when the census was taken in the month of June, 1844, only 615 Germans were returned as living in the island, making a deficiency of 423; even assuming that no Germans resided in the island but the immigrants; and your petitioners firmly believe, that since that period, deaths among the same and other immigrants have been in as great or greater proportions.

Your petitioners believe that really free labourers cannot be obtained from Africa, and that such abstraction as is proposed, of the African population from their country, would give a fearful impulse to an internal slave-trade in Africa. The unfeeling chiefs on the coast, the most profligate, debased, and ferocious of mankind, would, by fraud, force, or purchase, in the character of emigration agents, drag as many to the coast as they pleased, and might be wanted; and while they did not actually sell, nor the European, technically speaking, buy, the people so brought from interior parts, their chiefs, by simply fixing high port charges and fiscal regulations for revenue purposes, would obtain from the transfer of the people—a transfer which the people could not resist or oppose—a much higher income than they before received from the *bona fide* sale of slaves.

Your petitioners fully coincide with the view expressed by the Right Hon. Earl Grey to the Chamber of Commerce, "that the existence of interested motives for procuring Africans on the coast has always been a provocation to war and outrage in the interior; and no benefits to be conferred on the persons released could justify a manner of proceeding tending to bring others into captivity, and to do so through those barbarous courses by which such purposes are effected in Africa."

Your petitioners believe that no Government regulation can secure the object contemplated, of procuring really free labour from Africa, and that merely an agency on the coast and in the transporting vessel will not prevent abuses.

Your petitioners would represent to your Honourable House the injustice of the whole of the inhabitants of the island being taxed for the benefit of a few; especially that the labouring population should be taxed for the introduction of persons intended to supersede them in their employment. In the introduction of Coolie labourers your petitioners were led to believe, that those employing them would materially contribute to the defrayment of the expense of the introduction, by the payment of a stamped tax of £2. per annum, but this has been repealed by the House of Assembly; and during its continuance it was with difficulty collected, as will appear from the Report of the Agent-General of Immigration, in which he states, "I have been finally obliged to instruct the Crown solicitor to proceed for the recovery of six hundred and eighteen pounds ten shillings (£618. 10s.) Coolie-tax, unpaid up to the 28th March last."

And your petitioners are convinced of the impossibility of carrying the suggestion of the Right Hon. Earl Grey into effect, namely, "the imposition of a monthly tax on immigrants introduced at the public expense." The entire cost will therefore fall on the whole community.

Your petitioners would also represent that, notwithstanding the statements of the West India body in Great Britain, that "they are content to pay the present wages, if a sufficiency of labourers at those wages could be obtained with certainty and regularity," their agents in this island are constantly endeavouring to lower the rate of wages, and frequently effecting it, and thus driving the peasantry from sugar cultivation to seek some more remunerating employment.

Your petitioners would also state that, while the cultivators of the soil are depending upon an influx of labourers to carry on their field and manufacturing operations, they neglect the introduction of better agricultural implements, and the employment of capital to erect such buildings, and provide such machinery as is required to carry on the manufacture of sugar with success.

Your petitioners would also represent to your Honourable House the fearful deterioration of morals that the introduction of pagan and heathen immigrants would have upon a community that is but just arising from a state of slavery, degradation, and ignorance, to one of intelligence, morality, and religion.

Your petitioners, therefore, implore your Honourable House to prevent the introduction of immigrants into this island at the public expense, and grant such relief as your Honourable House in its wisdom shall see fit.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c., &c., &c.

(412 Signatures.)

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

&c. &c. &c.

The humble petition of the inhabitants of Sturgetown and its vicinity, in the parish of St. Ann's, in the island of Jamaica,—

Sheweth,—That your petitioners are, for the most part, emancipated labourers, and are employed in the cultivation of sugar, coffee, and pimento. That your petitioners are willing to labour for a fair remuneration. That your petitioners, notwithstanding the demand for additional labourers so loudly repeated, are often unable to procure employment, and frequently find it difficult to obtain wages for labour performed.

That after frequent protests, vast sums of public money have been voted by the House of Assembly from time to time for immigration purposes; while each succeeding scheme has miserably failed—the immigrant labourers having, for the most part, proved to be either unable or unwilling to work; while thousands have fallen victims to disappointment, starvation, and disease; and, at the present time, large numbers are wandering in our streets and highways, demoralizing and disgusting the public mind, cast off by their employers, to be a prey to famine, misery, and death.

That your petitioners have been, and are yet, heavily taxed for the importation of European, Asiatic, and African labourers, and regard it as a positive wrong, to be compelled to support a system, the object of which is to reduce their wages, and consequently impoverish their families, for the exclusive benefit of their employers.

That your petitioners have learned with deep regret that Her Majesty's ministers have given their sanction to a new and extensive scheme of African immigration, under the impression that without it the cultivation of the estates cannot go on. Your petitioners beg to assure your Honourable House that such opinion is erroneous, that there is a sufficiency of native labour, which, if properly directed and fairly remunerated, will be found adequate to the wants of the colony.

That your petitioners greatly fear that the tendency of African immigration will be to revive and perpetuate slavery and the slave-trade in that unhappy country, and thus tarnish the glory of the Act of Emancipation conferred by the British empire on all her dependencies.

That your petitioners trust that your Honourable House will cause further inquiry to be made as to the truth of the assertion, that labour in Jamaica is "scarce and dear," and that no system of immigration will obtain the sanction of your Honourable House, except it be fairly conducted, and at the expense of those who desire it.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c., &c., &c.
(318 Signatures.)

A petition from the parish of St. Ann's, Jamaica, the same as above, containing 455 signatures.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

&c. &c. &c.

The humble petition of the inhabitants of the parish of Trelawney in the Island of Jamaica,

Sheweth,—That your petitioners are for the most part emancipated labourers, and are employed in the cultivation of the sugar cane and the manufacture of sugar.

That your petitioners are willing to labour for a fair remuneration.

That notwithstanding the cry for more labourers, so loudly repeated, they are often unable to obtain employment, and find it increasingly difficult to obtain wages for labour performed.

That your petitioners have from time to time been taxed for the importation of European, Asiatic, and African labourers, and regard it as a positive wrong to be compelled to support a system, the object of which is to reduce their wages, and impoverish their families, for the exclusive benefit of their employers.

That, notwithstanding the frequent protests of your petitioners, vast sums of public money have been expended from time to time for immigration purposes: while each succeeding scheme has miserably failed. The emigrant labourers have invariably proved to be, either unable or unwilling to work; hundreds have fallen victims to disease and starvation, and at the present time large numbers are wandering in our streets and highways, demoralizing and disgusting the public mind, cast off by their employers, and to be a prey to famine, misery and death.

That your petitioners have learned with deep regret that her Majesty's ministers have sanctioned the introduction of a large number of African labourers into this Island, under the impression, that without them the cultivation of estates cannot go on. Your petitioners beg to assure your Honourable House that such an opinion is erroneous, that there is a sufficiency of native labour, which, if properly directed and fairly remunerated, would be found adequate to the wants of the colony.

That your petitioners greatly fear that the tendency of African immigration will be to revive and perpetuate slavery and the slave-trade in that unhappy country, and thus tarnish the glory of the act of emancipation conferred by the British empire on all her dependencies.

That your petitioners trust that your Honourable House will cause a further enquiry to be made as to the truth of the assertion that labour in Jamaica is "scarce and dear;" and that no system of immigration will obtain the sanction of your Honourable House except at the expense of those who require it.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signatures, (Parish of Trelawny) 719.

That twenty-one labourers on Dundee estate attached their marks, and desire their names to be written as signatures to this petition is attested by their minister, George Blyth, also thirty-two persons, belonging to the village of Goodwill, attached their names or marks is attested by the same.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

&c. &c. &c.

The humble petition of the freeholders and labourers of Jamaica,

Sheweth,—That your petitioners have seen with surprise a despatch from the Right Hon. Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to his Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, authorizing a large importation of immigrants from Western Africa to this colony, for the purpose of carrying on the cultivation of its staples, and that the expense of their introduction is to be borne by your petitioners, who are for the most part cultivators of the soil.

That your petitioners will yield to none in the interest they feel in the commercial and agricultural prosperity of this island, and would therefore pray your Honourable House to adopt such means to prevent the introduction of African immigrants as your Honourable House may deem right, for the following reasons:—

1st. That there is on the island labour sufficient for every commercial and agricultural purpose; and in some parishes, more than is required, which may be known from the fact, that many labourers are without employment, and many of those who get employment cannot obtain payment for it.

2nd. That the object of this scheme is really to reduce the present rate of wages given to the labourer, which averages from one shilling to one shilling and sixpence per diem, by bringing a vast amount of labour into the labour market.

3rd. Because the expense of the scheme will fall principally upon the labouring population of this island, who have been already taxed to the extent of £250,000, or about thirteen shillings for every individual in the colony.

4th. Because every other immigration scheme has signally failed of its intended object; inasmuch, as of the 12,271 immigrants introduced, but few are now alive, and no increase has been made either in the production of sugar or coffee.

5th. Because immigrants cannot be obtained from Western Africa unless those who are engaged in it resort to bribery and deception; and, in fact, such a mode of operation as will lead to, and constitute it, a slave-trade of the most cruel description.

6th. Because by the introduction of such a number of heathen and Pagan immigrants amongst a people, themselves just emerging from slavery and ignorance, would fearfully impede the progress of morality, civilization, and religion.

Your petitioners would state, that labourers are willing to work on the estates where they are regularly paid for their work, and treated fairly by those who have the management of properties; but your petitioners are confident, that so long as the present system of management of estates is pursued, a system only adapted to a state of slavery, that no real permanent prosperity can be secured.

Your petitioners therefore implore your Honourable House to grant such relief as your Honourable House may see fit.

(Signed by 665.)

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

&c. &c. &c.

The humble petition of the undersigned freeholders and labourers of Jamaica,

Prayeth, that your Honourable House will take into consideration the fearful evils that have hitherto been inflicted on the inhabitants of this colony, and the gross injustice done them by the enactments of the local legislature regarding emigration, and by the sufferings of thousands, who have fallen victims to want, poverty, disease, and death, in consequence of the failure of every scheme of emigration that has hitherto been tried.

Your petitioners implore your Honourable House not to countenance any plan having for its object the introduction of any more emigrants into the island of Jamaica. Your petitioners have been informed that Her Majesty's Secretary for the Colonies regards favourably a memorial, which purports to have emanated from certain gentlemen who are connected with the West Indies, and who are desirous to introduce into this country emigrants from the coast of Africa. Your petitioners deeply regret that any such memorial should ever have been transmitted to the

Home Government, and hereby declare that they have no sympathy with the statement set forth in it.

Your petitioners are persuaded that emigration will only increase and perpetuate the distress of this colony; that there is in many parishes of this island an excess of labour above the demand, and that the idea of relieving the country by an additional supply of labour, is at present altogether erroneous and impracticable. That it is the conviction of your petitioners, from personal knowledge of the fact, that in general, where there are complaints of the deficiency of labour on estates, the deficiency arises from the want of the means to pay the labourers for work already performed, and not from the scarcity of labour induced by the actual want of labourers.

Your petitioners submit that it is not the scarcity of labour which threatens the ruin of this colony, but the vast increase of sugar that has been thrown into the home market, and the consequent low price of this article of colonial produce, which renders it nearly impossible for Jamaica proprietors to meet the necessary cost of production. It hence appears clear to your petitioners, that emigration as proposed would, by increasing the amount of production, only render our produce still more unremunerative than at present.

Your petitioners implore your Honourable House to consider on whom will the heavy burden of this new experiment of emigration fall. Not on the proprietors, for they are not able to bear it—not on the mortgagees and merchants, for they will make no further advances for sugar estates in Jamaica, not in all probability on the public treasury of this island; and, consequently, on the already overburdened and ruined tax-payers, which, we submit, is both unjust in principle, and cruel in practice. The expense of transporting, locating, keeping, and paying the wages of fifty emigrants, for the first year, on a single property, will be about £2,250 sterling; and what Jamaica merchants, mortgagees, or proprietors, would be willing, as produce is now selling, to lay out so large a sum as this, and borne down as the country is with a weight of taxation that is crushing us to ruin, how could the public treasury disburse such an amount as would be necessary to meet the demand of these memorialists.

Lastly, your petitioners would remind your Honourable House, that any scheme hitherto tried to import foreign labourers into the island for the cultivation of the soil, has signally and disastrously failed; that such a scheme as the one contemplated will give an impulse to the mercenary chiefs, and native princes on the Croo coast, and lead them, as in the times of slavery, to use every device for forcing their subjects and vassals, contrary to their will, to go, labour, and reside in foreign countries; that a kind of semi-traffic in slaves will thus be introduced under a different name, and a series of wrongs will be inflicted on the poor emigrants themselves, leaving their wives and families behind them, they will enter alliances here, and thus tend most certainly and fearfully to demoralize the population of this land. Under the penalty of death, if they renounce the Pagan rites of their country, we have no hope of their embracing Christianity, while there is every probability of their heathen superstitions being embraced and practised by those who are still in ignorance amongst ourselves.

For these reasons, we implore your Honourable House to take this our petition into your consideration, and to grant the prayer of it.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. &c.

(Signed by 581.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM THE REV. JOHN CLARK, JAMAICA, ALLEGING THAT EMIGRANTS ARE NOT WANTED IN JAMAICA, &c.

We have been favoured with the following letters in anticipation of the publication of the *Leeds Mercury* :—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LEEDS MERCURY.

Brownstown, Jamaica, March 20, 1848.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—Many thanks for your oft repeated kindness in sending me the *Leeds Mercury*, containing articles bearing on the condition of the West Indies. These papers have been both interesting and useful at the present crisis.

I sincerely trust the measures adopted by anti-slavery friends in England will be successful in preventing the wicked and suicidal system of immigration which is contemplated. You can meet with no one here, notwithstanding the newspaper demand, who says that he requires immigrants. The fact is, there are thousands of people who cannot obtain regular employment. In some parishes they are glad to get work at 6d. per day, and are even working at 4d. In others, work is not to be had at all. On sugar estates in this neighbourhood, in the height of crop, they are getting 1s., but attempts are being made to reduce it to 9d. Immigrant labour will cost twice as much, and will force native labour out of the field.

While I think it most unjust to admit slave-grown sugar into the British market, my opinion remains unaltered that, under a different system, sugar might be cultivated here as cheaply (other things being

equal) as in Cuba or the Brazils. Even now, it is generally acknowledged, that free labour is cheaper than slave labour was in former days. But so differently are estates managed, that sugar is produced on some at little more than one-third of its cost on others. According to the evidence taken before the House of Assembly, on one estate in St. Elizabeth's, it cost a trifle over 13s. per cwt., while on one in St. Mary's it cost upwards of 32s. This certainly cannot be attributed to difference in the wages of labourers, as that item does not amount to more than one-third of the expenses of estates. But supposing that sugar cannot, under the present system, be cultivated so as to compete with slave-grown, I am persuaded that were estates rented out in parcels of three or four acres to the labourers, for the cultivation of the cane, and works used as central manufactories at which they could either dispose of it or have it manufactured, sugar might be produced at as low a cost as in Cuba, &c., and in sufficient quantities to meet the whole demand in the English market. At the present time, large quantities of cane are grown and manufactured by the people for home consumption; and if even proprietors will not consent to rent out their estates in the manner suggested, were sufficient encouragement given, they would be able so to increase the cultivation in their own provision grounds as to leave a considerable surplus for exportation. The principal obstacles to this is the want of powerful mills. The rough home-made hand-mills they now use, require the expenditure of too much labour and time, and they are not able to import powerful machinery.

But I did not intend to write an essay on the cultivation of the sugar cane. Glad, however, shall I be, if some of our proprietors would think over the matter referred to, that is, renting out their estates in small farms. There would be no fear of loss, while there would be a certain rental. I should also be glad were central factories to be commenced, at which the people could sell their canes, or perhaps it would be better still, if proprietors would come out and superintend the management of their own affairs, and expend their incomes in the island.

At present, money is very scarce, and I can assure you that Jacob Omnium, or whoever writes in the *Times*, would find it no easy matter to discover free and lazy negroes, luxuriating on ham, Madeira, and bottled stout. How absurdly those statements of the people being lazy and too well off read here! You will nowhere find a more industrious, frugal people in the world. A ham would cost three weeks hard labour, a bottle of Madeira, a week's work, and a bottle of London porter would more than absorb the wages of a toilsome day; a cocoa or yam, seasoned with a little salt-fish or pork, or a drink of pond water, or at most, a cup of coffee, the berry and the sugar grown in his own little garden, constitutes the luxurious diet of the negro. Some indeed ~~use rum~~, but in greater moderation than probable any people who have intoxicating drinks within their reach; a great many, however, are thorough going teetotallers, and neither touch nor taste the destructive liquid.

Last year, we had many exclusions from our churches, my own amongst the number, but I trust this will be productive of good, as it will purify them and bring them into a more healthy state. Our congregations are as large as ever, and I trust a good work is going on, although not so rapidly as in former days, amongst the people. Our schools are well attended at the present time. I have still four in operation, containing nearly 250 children in attendance, and a much larger number on the books.

Very affectionately yours,

JOHN CLARK.

Foreign Intelligence.

UNITED STATES.—We clip the following from the *Georgia Christian (?) Index* of Jan. 13th, as they occur :—

REVIVAL SERMONS, by Rev. Daniel Baker, late pastor, successively, of the second Presbyterian Church, Washington City, and of the Independent Church, Savannah.

The second edition of this very popular and useful book is just from the press. These sermons have been highly commended by learned divines and the religious press; but their highest recommendation is from above. They have been blessed to the conversion of over 3,000 persons. Of that number some thirty or more, it is believed, have become heralds of the cross. They may be had at our office; or of J. B. and W. H. Turpin, Augusta; Mr. Ellis, Druggist, Macon; or Wm. I. Way, Commission Merchant, Savannah; Price \$1.

NOTICE.—Will be sold, on the first Tuesday in February next, in the town of Greensboro, Greene county, a tract of land containing one hundred and three acres, whereon James H. Ralls lived at the time of his death. Also, a NEGRO WOMAN, Mariab, and her THREE CHILDREN, all belonging to the estate of said James H. Ralls, deceased. Sold by order of the Honourable the Inferior Court of said county, when sitting as a Court of Ordinary, for the benefit of the heirs and creditors of said deceased.

JOHN G. HOLTZCLAW, Administrator.

THE CHURCH SOUTH'S OPINION OF THE CHURCH NORTH.—The following article is taken from the *Southern Christian Advocate*, published at Charleston, S. C., an organ of the M. E. Church South.

"As we now wish the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States North, joy in being fully *pro-slavery*, so far as any and every vital principle is concerned, as the Methodist Episcopal Church South, is, has been, or ever will be. The ecclesiastical body is formally, truly, undeniably, irrecoverably connected with slavery. Slave-holders lead her classes; slave-holders kneel at her communion tables; slave-holders fill her board of trustees; *slave-holders occupy her very pulpits*. Let New England and Ohio stand aghast, and let the daughters of Eastern and Western abolitionism gird themselves with sack-cloth. Slave-holders occupy her pulpits, we repeat; for although the travelling preachers of the Baltimore Conference are not allowed to hold this kind of property, any of the Maryland or Virginia *local preachers* may that choose so to do; and many of them are slave-holders: A fine *denouement* truly is this to the whole tragedy of the General Conference of 1844. The Methodist Episcopal Church has lost sixteen of her fairest provinces; and *kept slavery* sticking to her skirts after all. Her enemies within and without will say that she endorses the doctrine that human beings may be regarded as property,—held as chattels,—what answer can we give? She sees no moral guilt in the relation of master and slave *per se*. Her official organs must be again closed. Expediency must strangle conscience, or abolitionists will leave the foul communion in thousands. The sliding scale of morality *must* be adopted again, and that course of action be regarded as virtuous and praise-worthy in a layman, which would send a bishop to perdition. In short, the Baltimore Conference has conferred a better boon upon the Southern Church by going North, than if she had brought to our communion twice the amount of her present members, and ten times the amount of her talent. She keeps slavery in the Mother-Church, and makes every apology for Northern Methodism, a champion of Southern rights and principles."

PROTEST AGAINST SLAVERY.—Six hundred and sixteen clergymen belonging to the denomination of the Free-will Baptists, comprising, we suppose, a large majority of their number, have united in a public protest against slavery, and formally withdrawn from Christian and church fellowship with slave-holders. The material part of their protest is as follows:—

"Believing, as we do, that the sympathy of no holy being in the universe can for a moment be given to this foul system, and that neither the principles of the gospel nor indications of providence constitute the least apology for its continuance, we wish publicly to withdraw all implied or supposed, voluntary, political, or moral support of this enormous evil. Our necessary and involuntary connection with the civil and social organizations now existing, which seems to give to each of us the character and reputation of the body, unless by personal public dissent from their errors and crimes we throw the responsibility exclusively upon those who support the evils of which we complain, renders it more necessary for us to announce our unwillingness to sanction the system of slavery in any manner whatever. The view thus taken of this subject will render it perfectly inconsistent for us to give our suffrages or religious influence for the support of slavery."

"We, therefore, by refusing to support slavery, its principles, or its advocates, and by withholding Christian and church fellowship from all guilty of the sin of slavery, and by remembering those in bonds, as bound with them, would wish to wash our hands from the guilt of this iniquity."
—N. Y. Evangelist.

KENTUCKY.—The other day the Legislature of the State refused to admit a coloured mechanic to move into it from Virginia. The reasons assigned were various, but among them, as chief, were these, that we wanted more white mechanics, and that we should never have them until labour was made reputable. There is no doubt of the fact, that slavery drives away thousands of our people, and keeps thousands from settling among us because it degrades labour. A letter from Warren county, says:—"I desire to bring my children up to work, but am not able to do so; and if we cannot get emancipation, I must go away. I am very much indisposed to leave Kentucky, and will not do it if there is any hope, though if there be none, I will move to a free State."

Colonial Intelligence.

JAMAICA.—The Chamber of Commerce met on the 22nd of March, and passed a series of resolutions, of which the following are the most important:—

That it is the opinion of this Chamber that, with a moderate differential duty of 10s. per cwt. for a limited period of ten years against slave produce, aided during that interval by liberal immigration from Africa, the vigorous suppression of the slave-trade being enforced, the energy and enterprise of our planters, assisted by capital, which confidence would again place at their command, would place Jamaica in a position to enter

into unfettered competition with all other sugar-producing countries—for this Chamber feels convinced that, on properly equal terms, the British Jamaica planters fear no competition.

That feeling assured that the abandonment of sugar estates throughout this colony must now become general, and, as a consequence, the pecuniary affairs of its inhabitants be thrown into a condition of fearful embarrassment, accompanied by wide-spread insolvency, this Chamber deems it advisable at once to lay a memorial before the governor, and recommends to the different parishes a similar course for adoption, requesting his excellency to call together the legislature with the least possible delay, that the appalling financial condition of the island may be considered.

That the people of this island are not in a situation to continue to pay existing taxes; and this Chamber, therefore, strongly urge upon the vestries to curtail their estimates of contemplated expenditure for the ensuing year to the lowest possible limits, short of abandoning entirely the parochial institutions.

That it is an admitted maxim amongst all civilized nations, that whenever the state invades individual rights for the public good, full indemnity is invariably awarded; if, therefore, the British nation, for the sake of cheap sugar, destroys her colonies by waging an unrighteous crusade against her own subjects, who have invested their capital upon the faith and guarantee of their country's laws, they, as British subjects, will lay their claim for full and ample compensation for the destruction of their property—a claim which the justice of the British nation cannot refuse to recognise.

LIBERATED AFRICANS.—At a late coroner's inquest on the body of an African found dead in the harbour, the following evidence of the captain of one of the emigrant ships, shewing the sufferings to which they were exposed in the liberated yard, and the mortality on the passage, we beg to call attention:—

Captain Gabriel Ford said—I am master of the barque *Amity Hall*, from Sierra Leone, touching at Port-Morant and Morant-Bay in this island. I brought a cargo of liberated Africans; left with two hundred and seventy-seven, and landed two hundred and forty; thirty-seven died; thirty-three during the passage and four in the Kingston harbour, three of whom were buried by Mr. Maddix, the sexton of the parish, through orders of Mr. Darrell, one of the magistrates. The death was reported by the medical attendant of the ship to the Immigration Agent General, Mr. Ewart. The other man died on Friday, at about four o'clock; he was an "Akoo." I applied for a coffin when I came ashore, and did not get one. I returned to the ship at dark, at about half-past six o'clock; at eight o'clock at night I desired that the man should be brought on deck and covered with a mat until the morning, when I would get a coffin and have him taken on shore. The officer and crew went to bed, and there was no watch kept. In the morning, at day light, we missed the body, and on making signs to the "Congoes," they pointed to the sea, giving me to understand that they had thrown it overboard. These people buried all who died at sea, and have a superstitious belief that when dead, if thrown into the sea, they go back to Africa. The tonnage of my vessel is according to register, old measurement, 419 tons; we were twenty-seven days coming, and we were visited by the health-officer on coming into Port Royal; our doctor reported all the cases, and there was nothing infectious on board. The deceased, to the best of my knowledge, died from exhaustion and general debility, and it is not to be wondered at, from the sufferings they underwent, first in the slave ship, and then in the Liberated Yard, as it is termed, at Sierra Leone, where they are locked up like in a penitentiary, which renders them unable to undergo a second voyage unless they have different food given them. We put in the food according to a scale; rice is not a proper food—it is likely to produce diarrhoea; their allowance is according to printed books published by the Emigration Office.

The verdict returned was, "That the deceased died from exhaustion, on board the barque *Amity Hall* (of London) from Sierra Leone, he having been one of the liberated Africans brought in that vessel from the aforementioned place, and the jurors are of opinion that the deceased was thrown overboard, in the manner found, by some of his countrymen, during the night of Friday the 3rd instant, also that the deceased was twenty-five years of age at the time of his death."—*Fal. Post*, Feb. 13.

WANT OF LABOUR.—Much has been said about the want of labour in Trelawny. It has been reiterated as a fact, until we are sick of hearing it. Yet we never heard of a planter in the parish who would manfully come forward and affirm that HE wanted it! Some planters have abundance; others more than they require; and others have been obliged to discharge labourers. These are facts; we have had them from the lips of planters themselves. Mr. Shirley is an active supporter of immigration measures; and yet, at a recent vestry held here, he stated, "that he could have as many as he required at one shilling per day." Now this is really excellent. If Mr. Shirley can get as many as he wants, why send all the way to Africa for them? This is certainly candid. Proprietors are becoming convinced that the cry is one of folly.
—*Messenger*, March 9.

The papers received by the last packet (says the *Falmouth Post*, of the

31st of March), contain reports of an alarming nature. The affairs of the West Indies were brought before parliament, on the 3rd of February, when Lord George Bentinck moved for a committee, "to inquire into the present condition and prospects of the interests connected with, and dependent on, sugar and coffee planting in Her Majesty's East and West Indian possessions, and the Mauritius." We have ever distrusted the policy of committing our claims to the charge of Lord George Bentinck, a vulgar, verbose man, the greater part of whose life has been passed in the betting booths of Newmarket and Epsom. With all the low trickery of his early associates, the coarse and unscrupulous manner in which he made a gross attack upon Sir Robert Peel, together with other circumstances which we shall not stop to inquire into, rendered him the last person in the world who should have been selected as the advocate of the colonies. And then there is his connexion with a party, whose virulent intolerance has recently dismissed him as their leader, because he voted for the removal of Jewish disabilities! We unhesitatingly assert that such an individual cannot command sufficient influence to insure a patient consideration of our cause, nor add dignity to any demonstration in our favour. But such as he is, we must take his exposition of the difficulties with which we have to contend. In a speech of considerable length, his lordship put forth a statement of our grievances, but his advocacy was neither without reservation of many important points, nor censure of his clients. He "could not concur with the views of the colonists with respect to the navigation laws," and, "it was most inconsistent on the part of the West Indian and East Indian interests, whilst asking for protection themselves, to seek to deprive other interests of the protection which they enjoyed." Nor would his lordship advocate the admission of rum on an equality with British spirits, "for the British distillers were under considerable restrictions," and he thought that "they had a right to protection, by a differential duty on colonial spirits." As to the introduction of molasses into breweries and distilleries, he was of opinion that that question "should be left to the Chancellor of the Exchequer," but he did not believe that the West Indian interests could derive much benefit from an acquiescence to their wishes on this head.

BRITISH GUIANA.—ARRIVAL OF IMMIGRANTS.—The first Coolie vessel for the season, the *Sea Park*, 835 tons, arrived to-day, eighty-seven days from Calcutta. She called on her way here at St. Helena, whence, in addition to 266 Coolies from Calcutta, she has brought for this colony eighty-two Africans, fifty-two males and thirty females. There were altogether fifty-six males taken on board at St. Helena; but four died on the passage out. The proportion of the sexes among the Coolies is far different, and shews the greater eligibility of African immigration, in a social point of view. To 236 Coolie males there are exactly the same number of females as in the former instance, namely, thirty; the total number of Coolies of both sexes being 266, and of Africans and Coolies together 348. The *Sea Park* left at Calcutta two other transports, the *Bellairs* and *Agincourt*, which had arrived; the former for this colony. When she called in at St. Helena on the 9th of February, she found Her Majesty's steamer *Slyx* had arrived there with her twenty-seventh prize. There were 700 captured Africans at that port, when the *Sea Park* left. —*Royal Gazette*, March 7.

On the 18th of March a small addition was made to our population by the arrival of the *Arabian*, twenty-three days from Sierra Leone, with 268 Africans—namely, 123 men, forty-five women, forty-one boys, and twenty-nine girls. There were twenty-two deaths on the passage.

An arrival has also taken place from Madeira, with nineteen Portuguese, all well.—*Ibid.*

The *Royal Gazette*, of March 18, in its review for home readers, makes the following remarks on the condition and prospects of the colony:—

"The general opinion, with reference to the measures of government, is, that they are perfectly nugatory. They are small and feeble; and, therefore, of no use whatever in arresting the frightful decline of these colonies, which are going to ruin, with a momentum and a speed of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his colleagues seem to have no conception. At a moment when property is utterly valueless—when each successive week records the downfall of some West India firm of old standing, and, in former and better days of substantial opulence, when families connected with West India property, which once afforded them the decencies and comforts of life, are reduced to the most helpless poverty and the most dire distress—when estates are being rapidly abandoned, from the absolute want of the means of keeping them in cultivation,—when all is "loss upon loss," confusion, and despair; and when this sudden and awful relapse can be plainly traced to the operation of one cause,—the Sugar Bill of 1846,—it does, indeed, seem a very vain hope, and a very idle consolation, for any loyal subject of the Queen to look to any thing else than the suspension of that Bill, as a means of salvation to these ill-fated possessions. As concerns the proposal enunciated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for the conducting of African immigration at the expense chiefly of the government, we fear to judge from the former promises of the government on that head, and particularly

from the late experiment of the *Growler*, that it will be on too limited a scale to tell with any effect on the labour-market in the colonies.

"With regard to the other point on which our home readers may, and all such as are connected with property here must, desire information, the present state, namely, of our agricultural population, we have unfortunately to repeat now the same tale which we were forced to tell at the departure of the last packet. Whatever little work is going on upon estates is almost wholly performed by the immigrant labourers, the Creoles, without scarcely an exception, refusing to do twenty-five per cent. more work for the old rate of wages; and, consequently, since these cannot be paid, persevering in their "strike." The first three months, therefore, of the year may be said to have been lost by the estates, as well as by the majority of the rural population."

The *Guiana Times*, of March 20th, thus alludes to the unjust outcry against the Creole labourers:—

"The settled determination of the Creole peasantry of this colony to withhold their labour from the cultivation and manufacturing process of sugar estates, continues to be the theme of complaint in almost all the accounts which reach us from the rural districts. That there is some exaggeration in these reports we are not only willing to believe, but are convinced of from indisputable facts. When was there an evil which was not magnified? Those who suffer will utter cries of distress. But the cause of the colony, in our opinion, will not be served by sending abroad statements which picture the condition of the planter worse than it really is.

"We have irrefutable evidence that they cannot all have refused to work during the last two or three months. There was no strike either towards the close of 1846, or in the beginning of 1847; and the weather, at that period, was equally favourable as at present, if it was not more favourable than at the present period, for all the purposes of production. And how do our exports stand? In 1847, the quantity of sugar exported up to the 16th March was 5,777 hogsheads, 730 tierces, and 1,324 barrels; in 1848, at the same date, 5,433 hogsheads, 351 tierces, and 1,777 barrels; making a difference of 344 hogsheads and 379 tierces in favour of the former year. Now, whatever may be the conduct of the Creole labourers, and however industrious the immigrants may have been, the unaided efforts of immigrants alone could not have realized the quantity of produce already shipped this year, approximating as it does so nearly to that of the corresponding period of the previous year.

TRINIDAD.—Some time ago (says the *Trinidad Spectator*, of the 11th of March), our attention was called by a correspondent to the present condition of this colony; "her local government bankrupt in character, and report says, as good as bankrupt in purse;" and another letter, which appears to-day, leads us again to consider the subject.

It is no doubt painfully apparent that "the great crisis at present prevailing in the mercantile community will naturally tend to a decrease in the revenue;" and that some means must be resorted to in order to make the two ends meet. We have had occasion to advert frequently to certain reports of balances being in the colonial chest; a clear proof, surely, that the revenue of the colony, in ordinary times, was more than enough for efficient government. But where have these balances gone? Why are they not available for our present straitened circumstances? "Oh, they have all gone for IMMIGRATION!" Thus, then, we arrive at the fact, that immigration is one cause of our present distress.

But this fact will more plainly appear if we carry our examination a little further. We have said that the revenue in ordinary times has been more than sufficient for the good government of the colony. And do not facts bear out the assertion? If we look over the tables of expenditure, two blotches of pre-eminent blackness present themselves to our view—Immigration and Church Establishments. On these have been insanely lavished thousands, unnecessarily wrung from the resources of the people. The people have thus been proportionately impoverished. A host of evils have been entailed by immigration, which are yet destined, we believe, to increase in virulence, if the source from which they spring be not speedily removed.

On many estates, we believe, economy is now being wisely exercised; but we fear it requires to be yet more equally spread among them too. We have heard of the reduction of wages, and the praiseworthy conduct of the labourers under the change; but we have not heard so much as yet of the managers' salaries having been reduced correspondingly. We confess, we should like to hear more of this. . . . Now, gentlemen, do not get angry at our expressing so benevolent a wish, lest we say that you are not so sensible beings as the labourers over whom ye rule. Reduce your establishments somewhat; give—more universally—greater personal attention to the working of the estates; treat your labourers with more consideration; curtail, for the time being, undue enjoyments of the luxuries of life; and spend less money on dignity balls, at least until the present stringency shall have passed away. With this advice we finish for the present. A due consideration of what we have advanced, we believe, would be productive of good.

It is with satisfaction (says the *Standard*) we are enabled to report, for the information of parties elsewhere, that the labourers throughout

the island are behaving remarkably well under the trying circumstances into which the colony has been thrown by the recent failures and general depression. They appear to understand fully the difficulties which their employers have to contend with, and have shewn a degree of consideration and forbearance highly creditable to them, and advantageous to the community. They will, we doubt not, reap the best reward in return for their good conduct.

ST. LUCIA.—We suggested last week the necessity of again breaking in upon Her Majesty's repose, by a firm and energetical, though respectful, address to the effect of obtaining a Representative Government, not as a favour, but as a matter of right.

It is our undoubted opinion, then, that **FREE INSTITUTIONS** and **ABSOLUTE LIBERTY OF COMMERCE** are the only remedies any way proportioned to those unparalleled and incredible grievances, of which we must again and again complain, till we have tired the patience of our stubborn rulers. And well, indeed, may these be called *mother-remedies*, because they are the only ones by means of which we can ever obtain those blessings of law, truth, and liberty, to which we have so long been, and still continue to be, perfect strangers.

In all civilized countries, the important task of legislation is delegated to men of the highest ability and integrity; men of extensive information, with weight and authority established over the minds of their fellow-subjects, and sanctified by all the respect and deference annexed to wisdom and experience. In Saint Lucia, however, the legislative body, with one or two exceptions—viz., (the Governor), the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General—consists of men utterly and most lamentably ignorant of the nature and extent of their duties.—*Ind. Press*, March 23.

. The following letter has been forwarded us, just at the hour of going to press; we introduce it in consequence of its truthful importance.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A CORRESPONDENT TO JOSEPH STURGE, ESQ., ON THE PRESENT STATE OF GUIANA, DATED MARCH 17, 1848.

Things are at present in an awfully bad state in the colony. Our hated oppressors have driven us to the very verge of irretrievable ruin. Were I called on to answer the question, 'What are the causes of the West Indian planters' present distress?' I should reply after the manner of the old divines. *First*, negatively; 1st, not the act of emancipation; 2nd, not indolence on the part of the freed labourers; 3rd, not an exorbitant rate of wages. But positively, 1st, the embarrassed state of the planters at the time of emancipation; 2nd, their refusal to sell, for a fair price, small plots of ground to the labourers; 3rd, enormous taxation for the support of an extravagant civil list, and for the maintenance of state churches, including Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, &c.; 4thly, emigration schemes; 5thly, general misrule; 6thly, local mismanagement; 7thly, the Sugar Act of 1846. I think you in England should just now seize hold of their extravagant and reckless expenditure, exhibit it to the gaze of the British public, and show that with such an expenditure no colonies have a right to be prosperous. This would be the West Indians weak place, and you might shame them out of it. Think of British Guiana, with a population of only about 120,000, having this year to raise more than a million of dollars, £208,300; about £2 for every man, woman, and child in the whole community, by general taxation! Of this sum about £30,000 sterling lavished upon the church establishments of a small minority of the population! Ten thousand dollars (two thousand guineas) of this public money thrown away upon an ice-house in Georgetown, that the members of the Court of Policy may have their champagne nicely cooled; and £1000 to the author of a pamphlet, the object of which was to prove the colony to be in a state of ruin. The greater part of the rest of the money expended upon fruitless schemes of immigration! Thousands have already, during the last ten years, been thrown away on these schemes without making a single addition to the number of effective labourers. For every immigrant introduced, at least one Creole is directly or indirectly displaced. Our legislators have just been passing a most shameful immigration ordinance. I send by this mail some animadversions upon it to the *British Banner*, under the signature "A Colonist," to which I beg to invite your attention. Oh! that the Anti-slavery Society would send out an effective deputation at this crisis.

Miscellanea.

THE SLAVE TRADE—ASCENSION, Feb. 12.—The *Blazer*, steamer, Lieut. Smith, arrived on the 22nd ult. in eight days from the Banana Islands, where she left the *Amphitrite*, 26, Capt. Eden, and the *Penelope*, steam frigate, with the broad pendant of Commodore Sir C. Hotham. The *Philomel*, 8, Com. Wood, was off the Pongas, and had captured two vessels on suspicion of being engaged in the slave-trade; she had, however, ultimately to give them up. The *Favourite*, 14, Com. Murray, was at

Sierra Leone, out of which harbour she was towed by the *Blazer*, en route for the Banana Islands, to fall in with the Commodore. The *Mariner*, 12, Com. Mathison; the *Rapid*, 8, Com. Dixon; and the *Dart*, 3, Lieut. Glynn, were off the Gallinas and Cape Mount; the *Mariner* is ordered to the East Indies; her orders, we understand, came out by the *Blazer*. The *Blazer* in her passage to this island sighted a large steamer steering for the Brazils, and right across her bows at the distance of some five miles; want of coals prevented her from giving chase. There can be no doubt but that she was a slaver, and well filled too: both *Amphitrite* and *Blazer* are to be stationed in the Bights. The *Blazer*, after being supplied with larger masts and yards, sailed hence for Lagos on the 5th inst. During her stay at Sierra Leone, the *Rapid* had sent in an empty slaver from the Gallinas for condemnation; the *Ferret* had accompanied a vessel with 820 slaves to the same port, which she had captured on the south coast; and the *Grappler* had sent in a splendid vessel with 760 slaves on board, captured in the Bights. We have intelligence of the *Heroine*, 10, Com. Edmonds, having sent into St. Helena a vessel with from 700 to 800 slaves on board; and of the *Styx*, steamer, Com. Chads, having sent into the same place a large barque equipped for the slave trade. Both captures were made on the south coast; the barque making the twenty-first prize to the *Styx*. Notwithstanding all this, the captures are but few compared to the great number of cases which escape the vigilance and activity of our cruisers; and there can be no question that the traffic is at the present moment as brisk and conducted as systematically as ever it was. Without a doubt there has been a great increase within the last six months, and it is becoming more general; for prior to that there was not a slave to be seen on the north coast; but now, several of the former noted slave haunts are beginning to be frequented, and upwards of 4,000 slaves are reported as being ready for shipment from the Gallinas alone.

From intelligence from Sierra Leone, we are furnished with further information of the progress of the slave-trade on the coast of Africa, from which it appears, that this inhuman traffic continues with unabated vigour. The trade is announced in these advices as remarkably brisk and greatly on the increase. The horrors and sufferings of the poor victims are represented as much increased by the system of cramping them in small vessels. It is asserted as an undeniable fact, that the seas were covered with slave ships, and the success of the trade may be inferred from the circumstance of slaves at Rio having declined to so low a value as 250 milreas. The commissioners of the slave suppressing squadron are said to be tired of the delays and expenses of the slave squadron. This account says, that the *Ferret* had sent in an American brig, which, when captured off the Congo, had no less than 853 negroes on board, all of whom were secured under hatches during the eight hours of the chase; in the course of which time many suffered from confinement and about 100 others died afterwards.

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following contributions have been received since our last, and are hereby thankfully acknowledged:—

| | Donations. | Subscriptions. |
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| <i>Saffron Walden</i> .—Ladies Anti-Slavery Society | 16 0 0 | |
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* **ERRATA.**—In our last Subscription List, through an error of the press, we inserted under the head "Colchester," the name of William Cross, subscription, 13s. 6d.; it should have been 10s. 6d.; and against the name W. W. Francis, 2s. 6d.; it should have been 5s.